

Israeli jets raid S. Lebanon

SIDON (R) — Israeli jets raided positions of the Patriotic Revolutionary Council (FRC) led by Abu Nidal Wednesday northeast of this southern port city, security sources said. They said two warplanes protected by three others swooped low and dropped at least six bombs on the FRC positions 40 kilometres south of Beirut. There was no immediate report of casualties, but witnesses said clouds of smoke billowed over the area as ambulances and rescue teams rushed to the scene. They said flares lit the sky over the raided area. This was the first Israeli air raid on Lebanon this year. Israel launched 27 attacks against Lebanese and Palestinian positions last year, killing 96 people. At least 10 of those raids were aimed against the FRC.

Jordan Times

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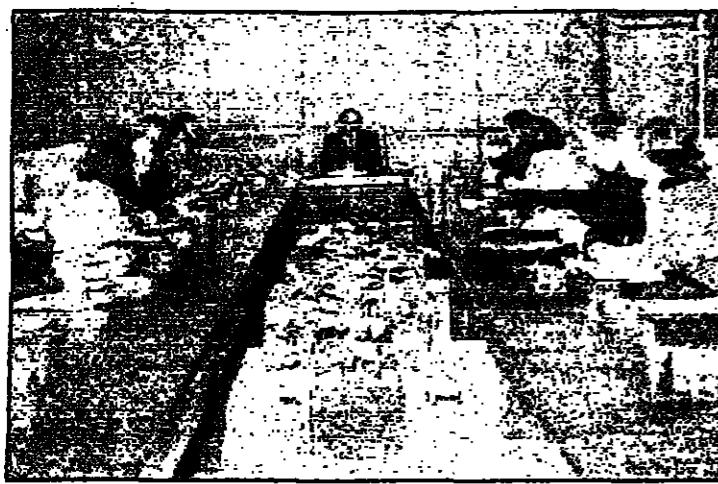
Arab ministers gather in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Arab foreign ministers began to arrive in Tunis Wednesday for emergency Arab League sessions on the Libyan-U.S. dispute and the constitutional crisis in Lebanon. Libyan Foreign Minister Jaddallah Azzouz Al Taibi, whose country requested the first meeting after U.S. jets attacked two Libyan planes Jan. 4, discussed preparations Wednesday with Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi. Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdal Hamid Al Sheik returned from Paris and briefed President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali on the conference on banning chemical weapons. Most of the Arab ministers attended the Paris conference and will be coming direct to Tunis for the two sessions Thursday. The league had originally arranged the meetings for Wednesday but postponed them for a day to give the ministers time to finish off their work in Paris. Arab diplomats say the session on Libya will give Tripoli a statement of solidarity but will not invoke the joint Arab Defence Pact on military assistance. On Lebanon, which has no president and two rival governments, the main proposal is to set up a group of up to five ministers to contact the rival Lebanese factions in preparation for new presidential elections. (see page 2)

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Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Wednesday meets a delegation representing the Council of Europe (Petra photo)

Rifai, Lawzi review Mideast with Council of Europe delegation

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai held talks Wednesday on the latest political developments in the Middle East with a visiting delegation representing the Council of Europe.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Rifai and the delegation headed by Miguel Angel Martinez, leader of the Spanish group in the Council of Europe, also reviewed means to boost cooperation in various fields between Jordan and the European Economic Community (EEC).

Earlier, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi received the delegation, which arrived here from Cairo. Lawzi briefed the delegation on Jordan's efforts for a peaceful, fair and comprehensive settlement to the Middle East conflict. He also reviewed the latest developments in the region and pointed out that Israel remained intransigent and adamant in its rejection of international legitimacy and peace initiatives despite peace overtures by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which has accepted U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 and renounced terrorism.

The call by His Majesty King

Hussein for an international peace conference on the Middle East stems from Jordan's faith in the international will and legitimacy, coupled with guarantees undertaken by the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, Lawzi said.

In reply, Martinez said, the delegation's visit to Jordan was to assess the situation in the Middle East and gain first-hand information on prospects for peace in the region as well as on how Europe could play a role in endeavours for a just and fair settlement to the conflict.

Lawzi and the delegation also reviewed dimensions of Jordan's legal and administrative disengagement from the occupied West Bank, the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and their impact on efforts for peace.

Several members of the Upper House of Parliament attended the meeting.

The visiting delegation includes parliamentarians from Spain, France, Britain, Italy, Greece, Holland, Turkey, Portugal, and West Germany.

In an interview with Petra, Martinez lauded Jordan's efforts for peace in the Middle East.

(Continued on page 3)

AROUND THE WORLD...

Mahdi plans broad-based government

KHARTOUM (AP) — Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi has agreed to a former coalition partner's demand for a broadly based government drawn from all political parties and Sudan's powerful trade and professional unions, a newspaper said Wednesday. Quoting a high-level source in Mahdi's Umma Party, the newspaper Al Khartoum reported the decision was taken at a party meeting Monday and that the party has begun political contacts to forge a compromise formula on the matter.

Tunisian elections brought forward

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia will hold parliamentary and presidential elections April 2 instead of April 9, a government official said Wednesday. President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali announced the April 9 date in a Nov. 7 speech but officials later realized this would fall within the fasting month of Ramadan. The presidential elections will be the first since 1974 when former President Habib Bourguiba stood unopposed for a fourth successive term. In 1975 the Chamber of Deputies (parliament) made him president for life. Ibn Ali is likely to be the only serious candidate this year though some small opposition groups have spoken of putting up their own candidates to challenge him.

Austrian chancellor arrives in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky arrived Wednesday on a five-day visit during which he is to meet with President Hosni Mubarak, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) said. He was greeted at Cairo international airport by Prime Minister Atef Sedki and other high-ranking Egyptian officials.

Turkey raps Greek Cypriots

ANKARA (R) — Turkey criticised the Greek-Cypriot side Wednesday over its position in talks on the island's reunification. "The Greek-Cypriot stand to exclude from the minutes of the meeting two new papers presented by the Turkish side and their objection to disclosing them in the Cypriot National Council are negative developments," Foreign Ministry spokesman Inal Batu said. "They create anxiety over the intentions of the Greek-Cypriot side," he said.

Sudan's judges return to work

KHARTOUM (R) — Striking Sudanese judges withdrew their resignations and returned to their benches Wednesday after a high-level hearing of their complaints, the official news agency SUNA reported. Their eight-day walk-out was sparked by a proposal from a ministerial committee that judges' salaries be cut. The judges are also unhappy about what they say is government interference in court affairs and arrests of provincial judges, especially in the south.

U.N. chief gets Palme Prize

STOCKHOLM (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was awarded the \$16,000 Olof Palme Prize for Public Service Tuesday, and said he would use the money for a scholarship for peacemakers. Perez de Cuellar accepted the award from Lisbet Palme, widow of the U.N. mediator and four-term Swedish prime minister who was shot dead nearly three years ago.

World pledges to outlaw chemical weapons

PARIS (Agencies) — The world community pledged Wednesday to outlaw all chemical weapons and to rapidly sign a convention banning the use of chemical weapons.

More than 140 countries ended a five-day conference with a declaration to eliminate chemical weapons.

The chairman of the declaration's drafting committee, Kalevi Sorsa of Finland, summarised the six-part declaration.

The declaration reaffirmed the 1925 Geneva protocol prohibiting the use of chemical weapons. It called for stepped-up negotiations in Geneva to ban the development, production, storage and use of chemical weapons.

"From here on we can refer back to the Paris conference and its text."

The 600-word statement, forged during long hours of haggling by negotiators, is expected to give powerful impetus to the conference on disarmament.

He also condemned the U.S. downing of two Libyan jetfighters over the Mediterranean earlier this month saying it will reflect "negatively on peace in the Middle East."

"Our position is in favour of Libya and against aggression," he said.

Arafat refrained from naming any countries which offered to recognise the Palestinian state. But he was optimistic that the EEC Committee for Palestinian Affairs would produce a new, practical initiative "suitable to deal with the new conditions."

A senior general has resigned his commission with complaints that Israeli efforts to put down the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories could damage the moral fiber of army soldiers, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Questions about the army's role in the occupied territories are increasingly being debated in Israel, with chief of staff Dan Shomron also quoted Wednesday as saying that troops could never quell the rebellion because it is a political struggle.

Also Wednesday, Israeli newspapers said the army had indicted three Palestinians for murder on charges of throwing three firebombs at an Israeli passenger bus Oct. 30 in Jericho.

Five Israelis including one soldier died in the attack. The Palestinians were identified as in their early 20s.

Meanwhile, Jewish settlers have called an unprecedented strike Thursday to protest against Palestinian demonstrations and anti-occupation activities.

Dozens of settlers have been injured by petrol bombs and rocks thrown by Palestinians during the 13-month-old uprising.

On Tuesday, Israeli troops shot and wounded 10 Palestinians — two critically — during protests in the West Bank and Gaza.

Hospital officials said troops also shot dead three village residents.

Arab delegates "tried to draw attention to the particular situation in our region," Aziz said at a news conference.

"Where there is one country that has nuclear weapons and that country has mass destruction weapons is not a signature to the Non-Proliferation Treaty... and has refused to reach peace... that nation constitutes a real threat to the peace and security of the region," Aziz said.

Arab countries had wanted the final declaration to link nuclear disarmament to chemical disarmament. The Arab position was that so long as Israel maintained a nuclear force, the Arab states needed to

have chemical arms. Including the word "nuclear" in the final document became the main obstacle to a final declaration.

The final document that was receiving a last reading by foreign ministers Wednesday morning did not include the word nuclear, but refers to "general and complete disarmament."

"I read the final draft," Aziz said. "And that draft falls short of our concerns. It refers to matters in generalities but it doesn't highlight the matter as we would want it highlighted."

"This conference is not the end of things," he said, adding that Arab states would press the matter at ongoing negotiations on a chemical weapons ban in

Geneva.

Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz of Iraq said he and other Arab delegates finally decided not to take a position that would prevent the success of the conference.

The United States and the Soviet Union, the only countries which admit possessing chemical weapons, fought to include a tough statement on the proliferation of poison gases. Both have about 20 countries now have stocks.

But they gave ground in the face of Third World complaints that the non-proliferation drive was simply a way of keeping developing nations deprived of high technology.

5 protesters wounded in occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded five Palestinians in clashes in the Gaza Strip refugee camps of Nuseirat and Khan Yunis and the West Bank village of 'Ain Abush. Among the wounded was a 12-year-old shot in the left thigh.

Two others, shot earlier in week, were in critical condition in Jerusalem's Mokassed hospital, officials said.

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during the Gaza Strip protests and identified him as a Shi'i resident.

In the West Bank, troops clashing with stone-throwing residents shot and wounded four protesters in Tulkarem and Al Amari camps, including an eight-year-old girl who was shot in the hand, the army said.

Amal, Hizbollah fight amid intense mediation

KAFR FILA, Lebanon (Agencies) — Amal militiamen launched hit-and-run attacks through driving rain and fog Wednesday while waiting for the weather to allow a full assault on their Hizbollah rivals in South Lebanon.

"The battle will only end when we clean the area from Hizbollah. We are waiting for the weather to improve to launch a new attack," said Fida, an Amal official.

At least 115 people have died in 12 days of bitter fighting between Amal and Hizbollah — the Iranian-backed Party of God — as they struggle for control of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shiites.

Independent security sources said the fighting in the mountainous Iqlim Al Tufah area had killed 60 people — 32 Amal militiamen, 21 Hizbollah fighters and seven civilians — and wounded 67 since Saturday.

The sources expected the toll to rise but said fighting was hampering rescue work.

Haggard-looking Amal militiamen said they seized 80 per cent of the small town of Jubah in west Beirut's Bourj Abu Haidar district Wednesday before Syrian troops intervened.

Alef Aoun, one of the Amal's senior officials in the south, declared in a statement: "There is no room for negotiations with the Iranian delegates.

Afghan rebels reject Soviet stand, vows to continue fighting

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan rebels dismissed Wednesday as another threat Moscow's warning that it might keep its troops in Afghanistan beyond the Feb. 15 deadline, and vowed to fight on.

"It is not possible that we surrender to this super power," guerrilla alliance leader Sibghatullah Mojaddidi said in a speech. Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov said in Moscow Tuesday his country might not meet the deadline, to which it committed itself in U.N.-mediated Geneva accords last April.

President Reagan said in Washington the United States expected Moscow to complete the troop withdrawal by the deadline despite suggestions that it may not be able to do so.

Mojaddidi, speaking at the Pakistan Institute of Strategic Studies, said Vorontsov had been making threats in his talks with guerrilla delegations in Saudi Arabia last month and in Islamabad last week.

"It is also a threat," he said of Vorontsov's statement, made at a news conference on his return from the talks.

"Whether they delay (the troop pullout) or not, we will continue our struggle," the guerrilla leader added.



Najibullah — focus of conflict

Mojaddidi heads the main Pakistan-based seven-party alliance fighting the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

The alliance said two days ago it would not hold further talks with Moscow on a future Afghan government until the withdrawal

of all Soviet troops and the fall of the PDPA government.

Mojaddidi, whose alliance wants Moscow to stop backing the Kabul government, said: "We have offered them conditions. If they accept these conditions, we are ready to talk to them again."

The guerrillas rejected a unilateral ceasefire declared by Najibullah Jan. 1 as well as a Soviet proposal that the PDPA have a part in the future broad-based government.

Mojaddidi said the guerrillas would have talked to the PDPA government if it had been independent. "But they are a puppet regime of the Russians and we are talking to the Russians."

He said the guerrillas could offer no concession to the PDPA except an amnesty for its members if they surrendered.

Moscow has withdrawn half of its more than 100,000 troops in Afghanistan under the Geneva accords aimed at ending the 10-year-old war and should complete the pullout by Feb. 15.

Vorontsov told the news conference it was too early to talk about a withdrawal schedule, adding: "Circumstances could arise under which the Soviet Union will be unable to do what we have, in principle, decided to do."



Feb. 15 deadline to complete the withdrawal (Sigma photo)

Syria backs proposal for Arab contact group on Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syria's Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa was quoted Wednesday as saying his country supported proposals for a ministerial contact group on Lebanon's constitutional crisis.

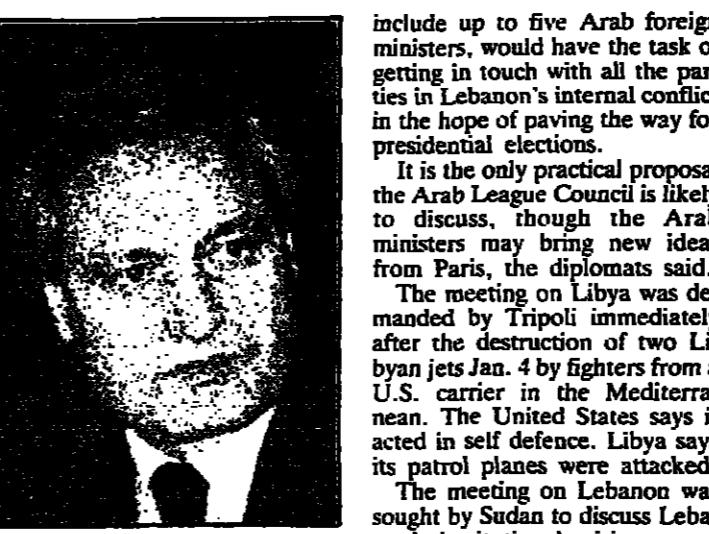
"Syria supports an Arab committee to make contact and listen to all Lebanese groups in order to achieve reconciliation based on political reform," the independent Al Nahar newspaper quoted Sharaa as telling its correspondent in Paris Tuesday.

The idea has been circulating in advance of a Arab League meeting in Tunis, which has been postponed until Thursday to give ministers time to arrive from an international conference on chemical weapons in Paris.

Lebanon has not had a president since Amin Gemayel ended his term in September without a successor being elected.

The Tunis meeting was postponed because most of the Arab foreign ministers were still in Paris attending the international conference on chemical arms, where Arab states want to link the banning of chemical weapons to that of nuclear arms.

The visit of Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi to Spain, scheduled for Thursday, also was postponed 24 hours.



Arab League spokesman Mohammed Maghrebi said the first session, on Libya, would start Thursday morning instead of Wednesday afternoon and the ministers would then go straight on to discussing Lebanon at a technically separate session.

In the debate on Lebanon, the ministers will have to decide whether to include Syria or Iraq or both on the proposed ministerial contact group, Arab diplomats said Tuesday.

The contact group, which could

include up to five Arab foreign ministers, would have the task of getting in touch with all the parties in Lebanon's internal conflict in the hope of paving the way for presidential elections.

It is the only practical proposal the Arab League Council is likely to discuss, though the Arab ministers may bring new ideas from Paris, the diplomats said.

The meeting on Libya was demanded by Tripoli immediately after the destruction of two Libyan jets Jan. 4 by fighters from a U.S. carrier in the Mediterranean. The United States says it acted in self defence. Libya says its patrol planes were attacked.

The meeting on Lebanon was sought by Sudan to discuss Lebanon's institutional crisis.

However, Lebanon will not be represented at the meeting, a source at the Lebanese Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

Two feuding Lebanese cabinets, one military and one civilian, have failed to agree on a unified delegation to represent Lebanon at the Tunis parley, said the Foreign Ministry source.

"Unfortunately no agreement could be reached on a Lebanese representation although the Lebanon crisis is on the Arab League's agenda," the source said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel, Egypt discuss Taba

PARIS (AP) — Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers held a second meeting Tuesday on the sidelines of the chemical weapons conference here to try to solve the problem of the disputed territory of Taba, officials said. Egyptian Foreign Minister Esamat Abdul Meguid and his Israeli counterpart, Moshe Arens, talked for 90 minutes, spokesmen for both embassies said. The two met for the first time Sunday.

Lebanese smuggler jailed in Cyprus

LARNACA (AP) — A local court sentenced a Lebanese heroin smuggler Tuesday to four years imprisonment for trying to smuggle 210 grammes of heroin. Ali Mohammad Haidar was arrested Oct. 14 in this port city in transit for Spain and was charged with attempting to deliver the drug to a second party there. Haidar, who arrived by boat from the Lebanese port of Jounieh, was hiding the drug in his anus. The 44-year-old Lebanese made the airport narcotic agents suspicious by the way he walked and later X-ray checks at the town's general hospital revealed three small bags of heroin hidden in his body.

Qom ready for Soviet students

NICOSIA (R) — Theological schools in Qom, Iran's main centre of Shi'ite learning, are prepared to teach Islam to Soviet students and researchers. Tehran Radio reported Tuesday. In a message delivered at the Kremlin last week, Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini pronounced communism dead and invited Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to send aides to Qom to study Islam. Tehran Radio said the Association of Qom Theological professors announced it was ready to back up Khomeini's offer. There has been no response from the Soviet Union yet.

Warrant out in cruise ship attack

PIRAEUS (AP) — A district attorney in this Athens port city has issued an arrest warrant for an Arab who allegedly took part in the City of Poros cruise ship attack last July, a spokesman for his office said Tuesday. Piraeus district attorney Giorgos Vlassis issued the arrest warrant for Mohammad Adnan Zozad, 21, Monday, said the spokesman. But a report drafted by port authority officials and submitted to the district attorney on Dec. 23 said Zozad, a Lebanese national, was killed by an explosion aboard the liner. Police said after the attack that they had found remains of a leg which they believed belonged to Zozad.

Britain to withdraw Gulf navy patrol

LONDON (R) — Britain said Tuesday it would withdraw its force of three ships sent to the Gulf in 1987 to clear mines laid during the Iran-Iraq war. Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton said in a statement the August ceasefire in the Gulf and the success of British, Belgian, Dutch, Italian, French and U.S. ships in removing mines made it possible to recall the three minesweepers in March. He said the patrol would remain in the area of the Gulf and the Indian Ocean ready to escort British-registered ships if Iranian or Iraqi forces resumed attacks. Three minesweepers would stand by in case mine-laying resumed.

Iran: British 'threats' unproductive

NICOSIA (AP) — London's demands that Teheran should do more to help free three British hostages in Lebanon before bilateral ties can be improved have evoked an angry response in an English-language Iranian daily. Also Tuesday, British Airways said that it had cancelled next Friday's scheduled flight to Tehran, which was to be the carrier's first flight to Iran after a three-year break. The airline said it hopes to resume flights from the week after. The Tehran Times said in an editorial Tuesday, that "such statements can appear as threats from London, to slow down the pace of improving relations," the Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

Remissions to over 900 prisoners in Morocco

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco has remitted the sentences of 985 prisoners to mark a nationalist anniversary Wednesday, the Justice Ministry said. The ministry did not say who would benefit. In previous royal clemency cases they have been criminals. Two Moroccan human rights groups appealed in December for a general amnesty for political prisoners. Opposition parties put the number of such detainees at between 25 and 300. Wednesday is the 45th anniversary of the publication of the "Independence Manifesto" by nationalists of the Istiqlal Party during the French and Spanish protectorates.

Egyptian court rejects editor's request

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian court Tuesday rejected an editor's request to reopen a cultural and scientific club that was shut down by the government after its newspaper published an editorial critical of Saudi Arabia. The Cairo court ruled that the club, through its newspaper, had entered into political activities counter to its charter, the Middle East News Agency reported. The government in August disbanded the Friends of the Arab Media Club, which sponsored the Nasirite weekly Sawt Al Arab, after it attacked Saudi Arabia's government in an editorial.

Mossad head to be replaced

TEL AVIV (AP) — The head of Israel's super-secret Mossad intelligence agency is to be replaced within several days after spending more than six years in the post, Israel Radio reported Tuesday. It said that the agent, whose name was not given in a statement, the Mufti of Jerusalem, has applied in Tel Aviv to carry out political activities under the name Mufti of Jerusalem. It called the Mufti of Jerusalem's leader, Lofti Meissami, "a collaborator of the regime's intelligence service."

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to be replaced either by another senior Mossad official or by a

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personality from outside that organisation," the radio reported. It said that during his years in service the intelligence agency suffered some failures, among them the discovery of false passports used by Mossad operatives in West Germany and the expulsion of Mossad agents from Britain several months ago.

Israeli group calls for closure of Dhahiriya detention centre

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Civil Rights Association of Israel Tuesday appealed to the supreme court for closure of a military detention centre in the occupied territories saying Palestinians were kept in inhumane conditions. Israel Radio reported.

Meanwhile, two Palestinian lawyers who visited another military prison in the Naqeb Desert said they were told of violent protests in the prison after a sick inmate was refused treatment.

The civil rights group's petition asked the court to order the army to close the detention centre in the village of Dhahiriya, 25 kilometres southwest of Hebron, the radio report said.

It said lawyers who visited the facility found conditions to be "shocking."

The petition, filed on behalf of four inmates, said one of them was in a cell 20 metres square

with between 30 and 30 other Palestinian prisoners.

An army spokesman confirmed the protests and said an army officer and a Palestinian inmate were lightly injured.

Mary Rock, one of the attorneys, told the Associated Press in a telephone interview: "There was a sick man, very ill, who needed medical care. No one cared for him, and this made the prisoners very angry."

She said that protests to support the sick prisoner broke out in a section of the prison reserved for Gaza Strip residents and that guards fired teargas and rubber bullets to quell the protests.

Inmates in sections for West Bank prisoners heard the commotion and also began shouting. They, too, were met with teargas, she said.

Ziad Jasser, the other lawyer, said prisoners throughout the facility went on a half-day hunger strike to protest the incident.

Reagan insists downing of Libyan jets was 'self-defence'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan Tuesday denied a published report that U.S. navy jets may have fired prematurely in shooting down two Libyan MiG-23 fighters over the Mediterranean last Wednesday.

"Remember, we're not dealing with an earlier day with machine guns and close contact," he said. "Today, if a plane persists in keeping you in line ... you have to assume it's getting ready to push a button."

Reagan's comments echoed those of Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, who also termed the pilots' actions "self-defence."

White House spokesman Marvin Fitzwater, asked about the report in the Washington Post, said: "The yellow warning indicates that pilots can take defensive actions to defend themselves ... the fact is that under the yellow caution, they have the right to defend themselves and to fire, and they did."

Defense Department spokesman Dan Howard echoed Fitzwater's

Min./max. temp.

Amman 2 / 10
Aqaba 7 / 16
Deserts 0 / 11
Jordan Valley 6 / 17

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 7, Aqaba 14. Humidity readings: Amman 70 per cent, Aqaba 64 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Rajavi lists 1,107 executed

AMMAN (I.T.) — The main Iranian dissident group, Mujahideen-e-Khalq, has named 1,107 political prisoners it said had been executed by Iran since the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the Gulf war.

In a cable to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and teleaxed to the Jordan Times, Mujahideen leader Masoud Rajavi said:

"The shocking figure is only a portion of at least 12,000 political executions which have been carried out throughout Iran in the past five months."

Rajavi quoted eyewitness reports from Iran as saying: "A great number of political prisoners have been massacred in recent weeks with the use of poisonous gases."

Rajavi emphasised in his telegram: "The Khomeini regime has undoubtedly entered the final stage of its medieval rule since it swallowed the 'poison' of a ceasefire. The regime has now placed the physical extermination of political prisoners on its agenda."

Rajavi pointed to examples of the Khomeini regime's "crimes" such as incinerating the bodies of execution victims in order to destroy criminal evidence such as torture marks on prisoners' bodies.

Rajavi added: "With the existence of such an extraordinary amount of documents, witnesses

and evidence, the Iranian people and resistance's request is a wholly justified and undeniable demand. Khomeini should not be permitted to brazenly ridicule world public opinion and the General Assembly of the United Nations, which has condemned the grave violation of human rights in four consecutive years, by silencing his criminal acts. Does such a regime exist?"

In another statement, the Mufti of Jerusalem, a former member of the Khomeini regime, has applied in Tel Aviv to carry out political activities under the name Mufti of Jerusalem. It called the Mufti of Jerusalem's leader, Lofti Meissami, "a collaborator of the regime's intelligence service."

The government in Tel Aviv has announced to relax political controls. Iranian groups have been permitted to operate.

The spiritual leader of the Iranian parliament, Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani, last month that Iran respects human rights but punishes members of the Mujahideen-e-Khalq's National Liberation Army captured in a th

Grapefruit 160 / 130
Lemon 200 / 150
Marrow (large) 100 / 150
Marrow (small) 350 / 280
Onion (French) 100 / 150
Orange (Shamouti) 350 / 300
Orange (local) 250 / 200
Onion (dry) 190 / 150
Pepper (hot) 560 / 480
Pepper (sweet) 500 / 400
Pepino 250 / 200
Spinach 120 / 80
Mandarin 240 / 180
Tomatoes 350 / 280

PROGRAMME TWO

17:15 Children's cartoons
17:25 French feature film
17:30 Local programme
19:15 Documentary

19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series

Price of chicken raised to 820 fils

AMMAN (Petra) — The price of chicken has gone up by 80 fils a kilogramme in view of the high cost of feed concentrates and veterinary medicine involved in poultry production in the Kingdom, according to an official announcement by Minister of Supply, Fayez Tarawneh.

The minister's statement said that poultry (chicken) meat will be sold from now on at the rate of 820 fils per kilogramme at all stores, up from 740 fils.

It also said that a kilogramme of live chicken bought from stores that slaughter chicken will cost 680 fils up from 600 fils.

The statement made it clear that the increase in prices was decided upon a recommendation from a committee set up to study the poultry situation. This committee, grouped representatives of the ministries of Supply, Agriculture, Industry and Trade, and the Agricultural Credit Corporation.

The last hike in the price of poultry was in 1981, and according to the statement, the rise in the price was inevitable.

The increase in the price of poultry meat followed a period that witnessed a chronic shortage of poultry meat on the local market.

As the short supply of poultry meat was reported, a spokesman for the Ministry of Supply said that only 1,000 chickens were slaughtered at the Amman municipality's slaughter house every day, compared to an average of 22,000 heads of chicken before the crisis.



LAWZI RECEIVES PLUMB: Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Wednesday received the speaker of European Parliament, Sir Henry Plumb and his

accompanying delegation at the parliament building in Amman (see story on page one) (Petra photo)

Soviets to buy first consignment of Jordanian phosphates in 1989

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Soviet Union will import its first consignment of Jordanian phosphate during 1989 in implementation of an agreement signed by the two sides in Moscow last month. This was announced here following a meeting between Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinichuk during which they reviewed cooperation in a number of fields and developments in the Middle East region, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The agency said the two sides agreed at the meeting that a Soviet technical committee should visit Jordan during January to pave the way for a joint Jordan-Soviet ministerial committee meeting that will convene in Moscow in March.

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Saqqaft said upon returning to Amman that the Soviets had expressed desire to purchase 40 types of Jordanian products including toothpaste, tissue paper, cosmetics, woolen cloth, cotton material, socks, gas range, nylon bags, refrigerators, washing machines, domestic appliances, furniture, nails, wooden doors, metal pipes, leather shoes and frames for eyeglasses, leather suitcases, paint, yeast, pesticides, ballpoint pens, detergents, and electric materials.

According to Petra, the prime minister Tuesday also met with Italy's ambassador to Jordan Francesco de Curta who delivered the Italian government's consent to the formation of a joint Jordanian-Italian ministerial committee to promote trade, economic and cultural cooperation.

Jordan and the Soviet Union last month concluded an agreement on trade to be conducted on equitable basis and in a manner that would achieve a balance in trade and increase the volume of exchanged products.

Jordan at present imports Soviet iron ore, timber, paper, equipment and chemicals, and through the December agreement the Kingdom hopes to sell the Soviets phosphate along with other national products.

The agreement in Moscow was concluded during a weeklong visit there by an economic delegation led by the Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf following the formation last year of a joint committee to look into ways of promoting trade and economic cooperation.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

RIFAI SENDS CONDOLENCES: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has delegated the governor of Irbid to participate in the funeral of Mariam Mahmoud Khasawneh and to convey his condolences to the Khasawneh family. (Petra)

HINDAWI MEETS JOSPIN: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thoqan Hindawi Tuesday held talks with French Minister of Education, Youth, and Sports Lionel Jospin on the sidelines of an international conference on education. They discussed educational, cultural, and technical cooperation between Jordan and France. (Petra)

DAJANI RECEIVES U.K. ENVOY: Interior Minister Rajai Dajani Wednesday reviewed with British Ambassador in Amman Anthony Reeve the existing cooperation between the two countries. (Petra)

MINISTERS TO VISIT GHOR: The Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the Minister of Agriculture, and the Minister of State at the Prime Ministry will visit the Ghor region Thursday to inspect the extent of damage the agricultural projects sustained in the wake of the acute drop in temperature which affected the region recently. (Petra)

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT: Zarqa Governor Id Al Qatarnah Wednesday discussed with Director General of Urban Development Department Dr. Hisham Zagha development projects at Janaa region and means to boost housing projects in Ruseifeh, Yajouz, and Al Dahriyeh. (Petra)

OICC CONFERENCE: Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh Wednesday reviewed with Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Capitals and Cities (OICC) Abdul Qadir Ooshak the special arrangements to be undertaken for the fifth OICC conference which is due to convene in Amman in the second half of March. (Petra)

72.1 million cubic metres of water stored in reservoirs

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The total amount of rain water stored in reservoirs behind dams in Jordan is now estimated at 72.1 million cubic metres, according to Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani, the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) secretary general.

Bani Hani said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that water behind the King Talal Dam is now estimated at 56 million cubic metres, out of a total reservoir capacity of 90 millions, the Wadi Al Arab Dam has

10 million cubic metres, Sharabib Dam, 2.6 million and Kafrain and Wadi Shueib each, 900,000 cubic metres of water.

The rain water which is collected in the reservoirs is being used for irrigation in the Jordan Valley during the dry season.

The recent rains were instrumental in replenishing the reservoirs, and according to the Department of Meteorology, rain that fell by the end of December surpassed the general average by 130 to 150 per cent.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.

* The Iraqi Cultural Week which includes an exhibition by the Iraqi artist Salam Al Madamreh and an exhibition of children's paintings and children's literary and cultural books, at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* An exhibition entitled "New Museum Buildings in the Federal Republic of Germany" at the Yarmouk University — 11:00 a.m.

* A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Kamal, Samar Al Sabe' and Nidal Saleh at the Housing Bank Gallery.

* An exhibition of photos and videos on "La Defense", a new district in Paris which became a symbol of architectural creativity, at the French Cultural Centre.

* The Yugoslavian graphic art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

BAZAAR

* A charity bazaar that includes wooden handicrafts, embroidery, artificial flowers, children's toys and cultural books at Al'a Centre, Hittin Refugee Camp.

FILM

* A feature film "Inherit the Wind" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Amman Police to remove beggars from streets

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Amman Police Department has launched a wide-scale campaign to remove from the streets of the capital and main traffic light junctions groups of boys who gather round cars trying to sell a variety of things to motorists.

The campaign is also designed to collect beggars and youths who try to clean cars as a means begging their living, according to a report in Al Ra'i daily newspaper Wednesday.

The report quotes a police spokesman as saying that the campaign was being carried out to prevent youths from getting involved in crimes or illegal actions.

Teams of police patrols will be going round the capital in accordance with a timetable to make sure that the streets are rid of the beggars and vendors, and those apprehended will have their cases studied by specialists individually, the spokesman said.

He said beggars gathering around entrances of mosques and other public places will also be prevented from doing so and noted that assistance by the needy can be sought from charitable societies.

The campaign is being launched in the reservoirs to guide local farmers and citizens on means of disposing of waste plastic which are now being strewn on a wide area of land with harmful effects to the public.

A meeting held under the chairmanship of the central Jordan Valley District governor of

which, the mayor said, will be turned into a public garden.

Rawabdeh said the present truck terminal south of Amman was causing nuisance and inconvenience for the public and therefore a 400-dunum plot of land, near the Sahab cemetery, will be turned into a parking lot for trucks.

According to the announcement, the municipality will have a deficit of JD2.229 million but this will be covered through cuts in expenditure, increasing collections of taxes on homes and licences for stores and workshops, fees for car parks, advertisement plates and licences for industries.

Committee to set up Arab certified accountants exam

AMMAN (J.T.) — An experts committee consisting of a number of Arab and international professionals will hold a meeting in London Friday, Jan. 13, to finalise arrangements for the setting up of the first Arab certified accountants examination, scheduled for November of this year.

A number of professional leaders will attend the meeting of the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA) Examinations Supervisory Committee.

An ASCA spokesman said that Arab graduates in the fields of accounting, business administra-

tion, commerce and economics, will be able to sit for these examinations which are to be held in major Arab capitals not yet designated.

The spokesman added that this step came as a result of intensive contacts with leading international professional societies in addition to the efforts of a number of prominent university professors who cooperated to translate the study material supplied by the Financial Training Courses Ltd., London, a professional training firm.

Intifada created new conditions for Arab workers — ILO aide

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The intifada in the occupied Arab territories has created new circumstances for Palestinian workers, according to a senior official of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

"The important question in the occupied territories now is what will be the results of the intifada?" said Claude Rossillion, head of Equality of Rights branch of the ILO. "At any rate, workers are willing to endure all the sacrifices (which accompany the intifada)."

According to the information gathered by the ILO's annual mission to the directly involved countries, Rossillion said, Palestinian officials have indicated that the Palestinians in the occupied territories have suffered big economic losses due to the intifada.

During the mission's three-day visit to Jordan, the three delegations met with officials from the Ministry of Labour, the Chamber of Industry, the Jordanian Federation of Trade Unions, the embassy of Palestine and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for the steadfastness of Palestinian people under occupation.

Rossillion, who left Jordan Wednesday, said ILO's annual mission to Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Tunis, aims to collect relevant information on the occupied territories from the respective countries.

Another ILO mission will visit only the occupied territories next month. The information gathered by both missions will be compiled into an annual report, and will be

presented to the ILO.

Visits to the occupied territories and surrounding countries have been ongoing since 1978 and 1982 respectively. Rossillion has been on one mission or another for the past ten years.

He says that the workers' condition in the occupied territories have worsened due to the lack of economic development, incentives for economic development in the occupied territories and lack of investors or investments by the Israeli government.

As for the Palestinians who work in the Israeli sector, "the question here is whether they receive equal treatment as Israeli workers," Rossillion said.

The Palestinians say "they are not protected by trade unions, do not receive the benefits of social security or taxes paid," he said. "Since Israel maintains that conditions are okay, we can never find the full truth." But, Rossillion contend that deductions from the wages of Palestinians working in Israel for certain social security schemes, "are of no use to Palestinians since they are not residents of Israel."

This "legalistic and political" point is also applied to the heavy taxes on the wages received by Palestinians. "The Palestinians say that they do not receive any of the returns in the occupied territories, while the Israelis reply

that anyone who wants to work has to pay taxes."

These Palestinian workers in Israel, who are mostly from Gaza, are also the workers facing the most difficult conditions. More than any other workers in the occupied territories they live in "appalling conditions" such as living in small areas with huge concentration of people, poverty and unhealthy surroundings. Rossillion said.

"I always had the impression that something was bound to explode in Gaza, and it did in December 1987," he said.

In addition to employment and labourers' conditions, the Palestinian trade unions' rights are affected by the Israeli occupation authorities. "They (Israelis) claim that the trade unions are a breeding ground for activists," he said.

Rossillion stresses that under such circumstances (occupation), "it is difficult to differentiate between trade union activity and political activity."

The ILO has worked to ensure the continued activity of some trade unions. In 1978, the ILO made recommendations to reopen the trade unions in Jerusalem and Gaza. "They were allowed to reopen but with severe restrictions which have always been a problem," Rossillion said, citing one restriction as "Israelis freezing the situation by not allowing the trade unions to have more members than were present in 1967."

The ILO has also made recommendations, which Rossillion says have been followed, "to some extent by the Israelis." These recommendations have concentrated on extending social security to the Palestinians and

on facilitating the situation for employment and production.

Although he says that the results are not "fully satisfactory," Rossillion points out that the situation is difficult to evaluate. "In the occupied territories everything is obliterated by occupation and the psychological factor which accompanies it. Palestinians feel like foreigners in their own country. So even if there is improvement on behalf of the Israelis, it is in a way true that there can be no improvement with occupation," Rossillion said.

But until occupation ends, the ILO has tried to further alleviate the situation by offering technical assistance, vocational, trade union and self-help training and financing for a number of projects.

The ILO was created after 1918 to coordinate efforts with various countries towards improving the situation of workers. At first the ILO was adopted by the Trade Labour Movement, then it became part of the League of Nations. In 1945 the ILO became a specialised U.N. agency working for and defending workers' rights around the world.

As an intergovernmental organisation, the ILO has several bodies which include all member states and which in turn follow up on complaints made by governments, trade unions or employers, adopt resolutions and set up programmes.

The teams, which are sent to different regions, are official representatives of the director general and annual monitoring of situations in different regions continues for as long as the conditions persist.

30,000 foreigners renew work permits in 3 weeks

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — At least 30,000 non-Jordanians working in the Kingdom renewed their work permits over the past three weeks as a result of a consistent campaign by the Ministry of Labour and its various offices in the Kingdom to ensure that foreign workers were abiding by the ministry regulations. Minister of Labour Marwan Dudin announced here Wednesday.

The minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the campaign will be of a continuous nature, and that on Saturday teams from the Labour Ministry, who had earlier visited firms and companies to ensure the application of the law, will be calling again at the same businesses for the same purpose.

These measures, the minister noted, are being taken to organise the local labour market and to ensure that Jordanians have priority in employment, and that

non-Jordanians brought into the country were being employed in jobs for which they had been issued work permits.

Dudin added that the ministry would not hesitate to order non-Jordanians to leave the country if they are found to be violating the law, and that their employers would be held responsible for their actions and will shoulder the cost of their workers' travel back Wednesday.

Last week, the director of the Alien and Border Posts Division at the Public Security Department (PSD) said that by Dec. 31, 1988, there were a total of 226,754 non-Jordanians living in the Kingdom. He said these include Arab and non-Arab nationals.

Director Mohammad Tarazi said that at present the government is charging JD 100 for work permits issued to Arab workers employed in the Kingdom.

Arab countries consume \$2.3b. worth of medicine

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A survey on medicine in the Arab World last year revealed that the Arab countries together consumed \$2.3 billion worth of medicine in 1987, according to Nizar Jardaneh, chairman of the board of the Arab Union of the Manufacturers of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Appliances (AUPAM).

Jardaneh, who returned from AUPAM board meeting and a seminar held in the Moroccan city of Casablanca, said that the survey also revealed that \$0.8 billion worth of the total consumption was of medicine manufactured in the Arab World.

He said the figures indicated that there was need to develop the Arab World's pharmaceutical industries.

He said production could be raised so that Arab pharmaceuticals could form up to 60 per cent of the Arab World's consumption.

Jardaneh told a press confer-

ence here that the three-day seminar in Morocco discussed a host of subjects related to the pharmaceutical industries and called for the establishment of a pan-Arab medicine market in implementation of resolutions passed by the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) which formed the AUPAM.

The seminar urged the Arab Nations to carry out projects designed to bring about an integration among Arab states in pharmaceutical production and called for the removal of all barriers that impede the flow of medicine among the Arab states, Jardaneh noted.

He said the seminar decided to study the establishment of a pan-Arab fund to extend assistance to needy Arab states, especially during natural disasters, and that the subject will be referred to the Arab health ministers at their March 20 meeting in Libya.

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Calling on the Israelis

BRITAIN'S Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe is right in going over Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's head by appealing directly to the Israelis to reciprocate the Palestinian peace overtures. Sir Geoffrey made his appeal from Sanaa Sunday during a visit to the Yemen Arab Republic in which he urged Israelis "to test the offer that the PLO has made to commit itself to the search for peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict." The British foreign secretary went on to tell the Israeli people: "You have nothing to lose by negotiation; you have much to lose by the perpetration of the present violence and hostility" on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

There is an obvious explanation for this unusual diplomacy: The Israeli leadership's obstinacy in rejecting outright anything that comes out of the PLO has become so hardened and impregnable that even the friends and allies of Israel are convinced that their only hope to maintain the momentum of peace in the Middle East is to by-pass the aging Israeli leadership and cultivate Israeli public opinion in a positive direction. Translated into practical manifestations, the international community must therefore await the results of future Israeli national elections when the enlarging nucleus of Israeli body politic in favour of a dialogue and negotiations with the PLO can attain clout and power within Israel.

What is even more commendable about this unorthodox British diplomacy is the observation that it is part and parcel of a twin-track strategy aiming at convincing the Israelis to test the PLO's intentions and offers for peace as well as convincing the new George Bush administration to give the Arab-Israeli conflict high priority when it assumes power in Washington.

The future and fate of the peace process in the Middle East therefore hinge on the attainment of these two complimentary objectives. There are already ample signs that the two objectives are indeed attainable. That is why the sense of optimism generated by the PLO's most recent stance on the Arab-Israeli conflict is consolidating and strengthening in spite of the Israeli leadership's desperate efforts to derail it.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Wednesday said that the United States has a special role to play in establishing peace and ending the Arab-Israeli conflict in view of the strong U.S.-Israeli relations. In a meeting with U.S. senators and congressmen visiting Jordan Tuesday, King Hussein reviewed the developments in the region and urged the U.S. public opinion and government to work for peace and exert pressure on Israel to respond favourably to the Arab Nation's bid for peace and security based on justice, the paper said. Four decades have passed since the end of the Second World War and the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict; and the people of this region began to despair over the lost chances for peace, the paper noted. It said that the Middle East yearns for security and stability which can only come through a just and peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute. The paper added that the people of this region had renewed hopes that peace will be established in view of the fresh international community's clear orientation to solve the Middle East problem and restore security. Peace it said is the only feasible alternative that would save the people of this region further sufferings and tragedies.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily focuses light on the international conference on chemical weapons in Paris and the attitude of the major powers of the world which possess nuclear and chemical arsenals. The conference has shed light on several issues connected with mass destruction weapons and raised a number of unanswered questions about the right of nations to produce and stockpile such devastating arms, says Rakhan Al Majali who is also the paper's editor. The writer cites the United States as an example of those countries, owning all forms of mass destruction weapons and trying to impose its will on smaller nations, denying them the right to possess means with which they can defend themselves. Moreover, the United States which continues to back Israel's acts of aggression is now trying to intimidate the Arabs by threatening to blow up the pharmaceutical plant near Tripoli as a service to its Israeli ally, the writer notes. Of course the U.S.-Israeli alliance has a strategic plan to deprive the Arabs of the right to build their own power that might threaten the military force of Israel and constitute danger to the Jewish state's nuclear or chemical arsenals, the writer continues. He says the U.S. has committed a series of terrorist actions against the Arab Nation with or without the assistance of Israel; but the recent aggression on Libya and the downing of its aircraft should be regarded as one more link in the U.S.-Israeli conspiracy.

Al Dustour daily said that King Hussein has once again explained to the United States through its visiting senators and congressmen the situation in the Arab region and the Arab Nation's clear orientation towards a just and durable peace. The Arabs are openly working for peace and supporting the Palestinian people to achieve that goal and regain their rights, the paper said. The whole world has welcomed the Palestinian declaration of recognition of U.N. Security Council resolutions, a denunciation of terrorism and an acceptance of peace based on justice, the paper added. It said that the King has voiced Jordan's satisfaction with Washington's decision to open a dialogue with the PLO in a bid to reach an understanding over a lasting settlement. The monarch said that there is need now to intensify the world community's efforts to give momentum to the peace process.

Sawt Al Shaab daily noted that Jordan's contacts with the world powers are part of its on-going offensive world-wide to promote the peace process. Statements by members of the visiting U.S. delegations on the Middle East developments give clear evidence of the U.S. understanding of the situation and rekindle hope that Washington will now be taking a different view and will work more seriously and in a more realistic manner to help establish peace.

Autonomy: A stillborn idea

By Hafiz D. Tuqan

AMONG THE books I read when a curfew was imposed on Nablus Friday, Dec. 16, 1988 — that black, bloody day when five Nablus youths were shot dead and more than 10 were injured, three of whom died later — was one put out by the Israeli army.

The book I refer to is *The Carrot and the Stick* by General Shlomo Gazit, translated by Lu'ay Abdoh who was deported by the Israeli authorities some months ago. The 400-page book deals with the early days of occupation. It is not my intention to review the book nor to comment on the contents because I lived through those black, trying days in my capacity as a member of the municipal council and the Nablus Chamber of Commerce. One main subject in the book concerns me and that is "autonomy" which has been on the minds of the Israeli leadership since 1968.

Through my daily pursuit of events occurring in the Israeli political arena as portrayed in the available media, I found out that the idea of imposing autonomy still holds. During the last days of the former two-headed Israeli government, there was much talk about imposing autonomy unilaterally. In this connection,

there was an Israeli press report that Yitzhak Shamir and Yitzhak Rabin had arrived last November at a secret understanding, as the intifada flared up, to give autonomy to the people of the occupied territories.

According to this agreement, autonomy would take place in 1989 and establishment of this rule would be in the eastern sector of Jerusalem. In addition, the Israeli media reported the movements of Likud's Moshe Arens and Labour's Gad Ya'acobi and Moshe Shahal, who presented the subject of autonomy before the former cabinet in its last days.

I shall now mention briefly what General Gazit said about autonomy 20 years ago: "On June 29, 1968, the prime minister, Levi Eshkol, held a discussion with Moshe Sasson, who was entrusted with holding contacts with West Bank personalities regarding an autonomy idea. Sasson was given detailed directions on presenting the said plan to those personalities in a positive and accepted manner." (Sasson actually held several talks with mayors in the southern region of the West Bank.) What those lines convey to us is that the Israeli political leadership has been trying to impose autonomy all these years.

A few weeks ago, the Civil Administration in Nablus renewed its contacts with me after the cessation of such relations when I left the mayoralty on March 3, 1988. On that day, I submitted by resignation to the administration which then refused it. Since that time, I have not gone to the municipality nor have I performed any work connected with the municipality. The meeting at the Civil Administration office lasted for two hours, at the end of which I made it very clear to the governor that I was determined not to go back to being mayor, in answer to his request, that my refusal is based on principles and that there is no need to waste time on details.

The impression I got during that meeting and afterwards was that the question went beyond the Nablus mayoralty. The aim was to enforce autonomy. If it could work in Nablus, then enforcement in the rest of the West Bank and Gaza would be easy. Why else the return to the subject of the municipality at this particular time?

The authorities seemed to imagine that imposing autonomy would be a counter-attack to the Palestinian peace initiative and that this would free their necks from the Palestinian peace yoke, and thus bar the creation of the

Palestinian state on what remains of Palestinian territory. All this after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's recognition of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 at the PNC congress held in Algiers, in his address to the UN General Assembly in Geneva, and in the press conference that forced the American administration to have a dialogue with the PLO, which actually took place in the Tunisian capital.

If the Israeli leadership think they are able to impose autonomy now and that they will succeed in what they failed to do 20 years ago, they are mistaken.

Do they imagine that after the intifada has entered its second year, after the loss of 303 martyrs, after 20,000 injuries by bullets, beatings and suffocation from tear-gas, after 20,000 prisoners have been taken, 138 homes have been destroyed and 32 people from the West Bank and Gaza have been deported (Israel Ministry of Defence figures up till December — the commissioner-general of UNRWA in Vienna gives the figures as 313 killed, 20,000 injured, 58 per cent below 15 years of age), do they believe that after all this repression, after all the success the PLO has achieved in the world, after recognition of the Palestinian state by many coun-

tries, and after embassies have been opened — do they imagine they would be able to enforce an autonomy refused beforehand, no matter what shape or form it takes?

The Palestinians under Israeli occupation have been suffering from all sorts of repression for 21 years. Men, women and children have gone through various forms of inhuman treatment day and night. I witnessed many such incidents during my tenure as Nablus mayor for two years. So did Colonel Ramzi Yadin, the former governor of Nablus, when I accompanied dozens of old men, women and children to his office to enable them to report the inhuman practices they had suffered. I still keep copies of written protest I used to send to Colonel Yadin.

If it is possible, after all these practices, that any Palestinian would accept Israeli domination?

Lately, some rational voices from realistic Israelis such as Ephraim Sneh have been heard. He says that Israel is now faced with a new situation where past forms do not fit — the commission-general of UNRWA in Vienna gives the figures as 313 killed, 20,000 injured, 58 per cent below 15 years of age. Do they believe that after all this repression, after all the success the PLO has achieved in the world, after recognition of the Palestinian state by many coun-

tries, and after the writer is the former mayor of Nablus. This article is reprinted from the *Jerusalem Post*.

Some days ago, a Dahaf ques-

tionnaire gave the figure of 54 per cent for Israelis supporting negotiations with the PLO. This is a positive pointer and an important step forward.

We address the new Israeli government and tell them that the intifada has created a new situation in the occupied territories and that such a situation will never be stopped by force and by repressive measures, no matter how harsh these measures may be. It is in the interest of all to put an end to occupation which is abhorred and resented to the marrow, and to look for a political solution which ensures us the right to self-determination and establishment of our Palestinian state on our land. This is the real road to peace which will save all of us from a dilemma that has lasted for more than 40 years.

The idea of imposing autonomy was stillborn. Blocking the course of history and turning the clock back will not save us from this dilemma. On the contrary, it will only endanger the whole area. And he who opts for this destructive course will be the loser. The analogies are numerous.

The writer is the former mayor of Nablus. This article is reprinted from the *Jerusalem Post*.

U.N. resolutions which Israel ignores

By Donald Neff

THE GENERAL Assembly and Security Council of the United Nations have passed around 300 resolutions on the Middle East over the past 41 years, the vast majority of them directed specifically at Israel. The Security Council, where the United States, as a permanent member, holds power of veto, passed 43 of those resolutions condemning Israel. It would have passed 23 others equally critical, but the U.S. employed its once rarely used veto to protect its ally. Of the U.N. resolutions, both by General Assembly and Security Council, the Palestinians had accepted them all except three — Resolutions 181, 242 and 338, all of which finally accepted at its recent Algiers meetings. Israel continues to reject all the rest. Since the Palestinians now embrace all resolutions, it is fair to ask which of them Israel is ready to endorse.

None of the resolutions are exactly revolutionary. They are not, as Israel and its supporters contort themselves into claiming, mandates for "Israel's destruction." At their strongest they call for what is considered civilised behaviour in the final years of the 20th century. Israel is requested to abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention and the U.N. Charter, to withdraw from territory occupied by force, to grant Palestinians the right of self-determination and to respect Palestinian property, political freedom and human rights. This hardly fits a prescription for destruction; rather it is an injunction to act humanely.

Resolutions 487 and 497, unanimously passed June 19 and December 17, 1981, "strongly" condemned Israel's air raid on June 7 on Iraq's nuclear facility at Baghdad and condemned Israel's December 14 annexation of Syria's Golani Heights, captured in 1967.

Resolutions 515 and 517, passed July 29, and August 4, 1982, demanded that Israel lift its siege of Beirut and allow the distribution of supplies to the civilian population, and censured Israel for then refusing to lift its siege.

The vote was 14-0-1 for both resolutions, with the U.S. abstaining twice.

Finally, the Security Council has been busy during the uprising in the occupied territories. Even the United States acquiesced in some of the condemnations as a result of Israel's extraordinarily brutal behaviour. Thus:

Resolution 605 on December 22, 1981, "strongly deplores Israel's

policies and practices which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories." The U.S. abstained.

Resolution 607, on January 5, 1982, unanimously called on Israel to refrain from carrying out its plans, announced on January 3, to deport nine Palestinians and also "reaffirms once again" that Palestinians in the occupied territories are protected by the Geneva Convention.

Resolution 608, of January 14, 1982, expressed "deep regret that Israel, the occupying power, has, in defiance of that resolution, deported Palestinian civilians." The vote was 14-0-1 with the U.S. abstaining.

In addition, the United States vetoed two other resolutions highly critical of Israel in the uprising: on February 1, a Council resolution called on Israel to abandon its policies against the uprising that violate the rights of occupied Palestinians, abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention and formalised a leading role for the U.N. in future peace negotiations; but the U.S. vetoed. And on April 15, America vetoed a resolution which urged Israel to allow back deported Palestinians, condemned Israel's shooting of civilians, called on Israel to uphold the Fourth Geneva Convention and called for a peace settlement under U.N. auspices.

Resolution 194, passed December 11, 1948, called on Israel to show a humanitarian regard for the 726,000 Palestinian refugees created by Israel in 1948 and allow them to return to their homes. It also said Jerusalem was holy to three religions and should come under an international regime. The Assembly and the Security Council were to repeat these plead over the next four decades.

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Resolution 605 on December 22, 1981, "strongly deplores Israel's

breaches of the Geneva Convention are war crimes and an affront to humanity." Resolution

ES-74, passed April 28, 1982, again called on the Security

Council to recognise the inalienable rights of the Palestinians and condemned Israel, describing it as "not a peace-loving member state (of the U.N.) which has carried out neither its obligations under the Charter nor its commitment under General Assembly Resolution 273 (III) of May 11, 1949 (Israel's admission to the U.N., when it pledged to abide by the Charter)."

On November 3, 1987, the General Assembly voted 130 to 2 to condemn Israel's suppression of the Palestinian uprising. The United States and Israel cast the only opposition votes while 16 other countries, including Britain and Canada, abstained. The resolution strongly condemned Israel for "killing and wounding defenceless Palestinians."

Resolution 31/61, passed December 9, 1976, requests once again all states to desist from supplying Israel with military and other forms of aid or any assistance which would enable it to consolidate its occupation or to exploit the natural resources of the occupied territories." Resolution 36/147 C, December 16, 1981, declared that "Israel's grave breaches of the Geneva Convention are war crimes and an affront to humanity."

General Assembly

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breaches of the Geneva Convention are war crimes and an affront to humanity."

Motherland politicians have expressed anger over what they see as the political hold Ozal's wife Semira has over him.

Ozal, whose nephew Husnu Dogan is agriculture minister, had heart bypass surgery two years ago and was injured in an assassination attempt in mid-1988.

A short, stout man who sees Turkey's future pinned to the West, he frequently exudes an air of jovial confidence in public. But aides say in private he is given to bouts of anger.

"At policy meetings he hears what everyone has to say then makes the decision, sometimes against the general trend of discussion. Very frustrating," said one former top banker.

Asked by Reuters last year how he arrived at decisions, Ozal said: "I get a gut feeling and know it is right."

from territories occupied in the recent (1967) conflict." But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his Likud bloc have repeatedly declared publicly that there will never be any withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza. That hardly fits with the resolution's clear language — no matter how much quibbling Israel indulges in about the extent of withdrawal, because of the absence of the word "territories." The resolution plainly and unambiguously calls for withdrawal and this Shamir refuses even to discuss.

But somehow the state department and the American media make all this sound as though it is the Palestinians who are being recalcitrant. State Department spokesman Charles E. Redman reflected this astigmatic view in reacting to the Palestinian National Council meeting when he said with a straight face that "more movement on key issues will be required (by the PLO)." That he said this just after the PLO had renounced "terror," could only "inflame an already embittered situation, making it more difficult to proceed towards a negotiated settlement."

The final irony in this tawdry tale of spurned advice and U.S.-Israel collusion is the fact that while the Palestinians were relentlessly pressured into accepting unequivocally Resolution 242, the reality is that Israel has paid lip service to 242 but never actually embraced it. The resolution specifically calls for "withdrawal of Israel's armed forces

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Man can't live by bread alone

EN BREF

CEE: Henry Plumb à Amman

Henry Plumb, président du parlement européen, est arrivé mercredi avec une délégation à Amman, où il a eu des entretiens avec le Roi Hussein, auquel il a apporté son soutien pour ses efforts en vue d'un règlement pacifique dans le conflit proche-oriental. M. Plumb a arrivé à l'Israël et des territoires occupés. Devant la Knesset, il avait appelé Israël à se résigner des territoires occupés et à engager la négociation.

Chamni, tout en continuant à exclure le dialogue avec l'OLP, a toutefois cédé du terrain en acceptant le principe d'un rôle des Nations-Unies dans les négociations de paix. Mais il a précisé qu'il ne pouvait s'agir que de "pourparlers directs avec la partie arabe", écartant implicitement une conférence internationale. Par ailleurs, Yasser Arafat a eu des entretiens lundi au Caire avec une délégation du Conseil de l'Europe, et a estimé que "l'Europe a un rôle à jouer dans le processus de paix".

Amal-Hezbollah: pas de répit

Les miliciens chiites pro-syriens d'Amal et le Hezbollah pro-iranien continuent de se battre au Sud de Saïda, dans le dernier fief du Hezbollah, à la frontière de la zone dite "de sécurité" instaurée par Israël au Sud-Liban. Au moins 126 personnes ont trouvé la mort dans ces combats qui font rage depuis le 1er janvier. Damas et Téhéran tentent de réconcilier les deux milices, après une semaine de combats particulièrement meurtriers autour des positions du Hezbollah, où Amal a déployé quelque 1.000 combattants soutenus par des chars T-54 pour prendre le contrôle de Jubah, à 16 kilomètres au Sud de Saïda, où sont encerclés 500 militaires du Hezbollah.

Aide américaine: Egypte et Israël d'abord

Israël et l'Egypte restent les principaux bénéficiaires de l'aide américaine à l'étranger dans le projet de budget pour le Département d'Etat en 1990, présente lundi. Sur un total de 19,4 milliards de dollars pour le département d'Etat, Israël reste le plus important bénéficiaire, avec 3 milliards de dollars, dont 1,8 au titre de l'aide militaire, sans changement par rapport à l'année dernière. L'Egypte vient derrière avec 2,276 milliards, dont 1,301 d'aide militaire. 2,288 milliards avaient été demandés pour l'année budgétaire 1989. Seule modification importante dans la répartition de l'aide au Proche-Orient, l'aide économique au Liban fait un bon, passant de 300.000 dollars à 14 millions pour 1990. Les deux nouvelles forces de maintien de l'ONU, le groupe d'observateurs militaires des Nations Unies pour l'Iran et l'Irak, et le groupe d'assistance des Nations Unies pour la transition en Namibie, recevront respectivement 20 millions et 50 millions de dollars.

Arens: non à l'OLP

Moshe Arens, ministre israélien des Affaires étrangères, a estimé, lundi à Paris, que l'OLP était une "organisation terroriste" et que "toute légitimité qui lui était accordée ne contribuerait pas au processus de paix". M. Arens a indiqué avoir fait part de son sentiment à Roland Dumas, ministre français des Affaires étrangères, lors de l'entretien que les deux hommes ont eu en marge de la conférence sur les armes chimiques, à la suite de la décision de la France d'élever la mission de l'OLP au rang de "délégation générale de Palestine".

Vous écrivez?

Le Jourdain recherche des collaborateurs en free-lance, avec idées originales d'enquêtes et reportages. Anglais accepté. Contacter François Duroux, Jordan Times, 667171.

Le saviez-vous? Frémissement israélien

Sous la croute du "front des refus," l'opinion israélienne est en train d'évoluer: un sondage publié fin décembre posait la question "êtes-vous pour ou contre une négociation avec Arafat, à condition qu'il renonce réellement au terrorisme?" Résultat: oui à 54% contre non à 44%, sans opinion 2%. Il y a un an, la même question ne recueillait que 25% de "oui." Par ailleurs, une manifestation de "Pan-maintenant" a récemment rassemblé des dizaines de milliers de personnes sous la pluie à Tel Aviv. On murmure à Jérusalem que Shamir ne croit plus guère à l'annexion des territoires occupés. (D'après l'Evenement).

La représentation de l'OLP élevée au rang d'ambassade de Palestine

Arafat hisse les couleurs à Amman

La visite en Jordanie du chef de l'OLP, Mr. Yasser Arafat, a été couronnée samedi par l'élévation au rang d'ambassade de la représentation palestinienne à Amman, dans un geste de reconnaissance, sans ambiguïté, par la Jordanie de l'Etat palestinien indépendant.

Le chef de l'OLP a estimé que l'ouverture d'une ambassade de Palestine à Amman était un "cadeau du Roi Hussein au peuple de l'Intifada." Après avoir hissé le drapeau palestinien, il a affirmé espérer que les "drapeaux jordaniens et palestiniens flotteront un jour, côté à côté, sur Jérusalem libérée."

Mettant l'accent sur "les relations privilégiées entre les peuples

dépendant."

La Jordanie avait rompu le 31 juillet ses "liens légaux et administratifs" avec la Cisjordanie, rattachée au Royaume depuis 1950, et occupée par Israël en 1967, afin de "mettre en valeur l'identité palestinienne sur la terre de Palestine." Cette rupture, selon ces mêmes milieux, a été à l'origine de la réunion du Conseil National Palestinien (CNP — parlement en exil), qui a proclamé le 15 novembre l'Etat palestinien dès l'établissement de l'Etat indépendant.

Dans les milieux politiques jordaniens, on indique que le geste d'Amman est "une preuve supplémentaire de l'absence de toute ambition ou dessein de la Jordanie à l'égard de la Cisjordanie et de la bande de Gaza, qu'elle reconnaît comme territoires de l'Etat palestinien indépendant."

Le chef de l'OLP a estimé que l'ouverture d'une ambassade de Palestine à Amman était un "cadeau du Roi Hussein au peuple de l'Intifada." Après avoir hissé le drapeau palestinien, il a affirmé espérer que les "drapeaux jordaniens et palestiniens flotteront un jour, côté à côté, sur Jérusalem libérée."

Mettant l'accent sur "les relations privilégiées entre les peuples

centrale palestinienne dans toutes les initiatives politiques qu'elle entreprendrait, ajoute-t-on dans ces mêmes milieux.

Le Roi Hussein, qui a eu deux séries d'entretiens vendredi et samedi à Amman avec le chef de l'OLP, a affirmé à que la Jordanie soutient M. Arafat et les frères palestiniens "de toutes ses forces jusqu'à la réalisation de leur indépendance."

De source jordanienne informée, on indique qu'Amman a fait par à l'OLP de son intention de la soutenir dans sa demande de réunion d'un sommet arabe. Le porte-parole de l'OLP, M. Ahmad Abdel Rahman, avait affirmé Samedi à l'AFP que l'OLP estime "nécessaire" la tenue d'un sommet arabe afin de soutenir l'initiative politique de l'OLP. (Randa Habib, AFP)



Avant tout, un symbole du soutien jordanien à l'OLP.

Paris: un pas de plus

Le bureau de l'OLP à Paris sera élevé au rang de "délégation générale de Palestine", sans, toutefois, que lui soit accordé de statut diplomatique, a annoncé le jeudi 5 janvier, François Mitterrand. Le chef de l'Etat a expliqué que la France ne reconnaît que les Etat qui disposent d'un territoire, il n'était pas pour qui il ne discuterait pas avec M. Arafat comme avec n'importe quel responsable d'un peuple dans le monde.

Interrogé sur l'éventualité d'une rencontre avec le chef de l'OLP, M. Mitterrand a déclaré qu'il ne voyait pas pourquoi il ne discuterait pas avec M. Arafat comme avec n'importe quel responsable d'un peuple dans le monde.

La décision française a suscité la déception de l'ambassadeur d'Israël en France, M. Ovadia Sofer, qui a cependant considéré comme "une bonne chose en soi" que les privilégiés diplomatiques ne soient pas accordés à l'OLP. Représentant de l'OLP, M. Ibrahim Souissi, s'est quant à lui félicité de l'initiative française, qui, selon lui, signifie que la France prend "acte politique de la proclamation d'un Etat palestinien". Il y voit une "reconnaissance implicite" de cet Etat.

FIGURE

Moshe Arens, le faucon

Moshe Arens, 63 ans, successeur de Shimon Péres aux Affaires étrangères, fait partie de la fraction "dure" Likoud. Il s'est opposé en 1978 aux accords de Camp David, consacrant la paix israélo-égyptienne. A

la suite de cette

privée" après avoir quitté Damas où il avait rencontré le président Hafez Al-Assad.

Les relations diplomatiques entre le Maroc et la Syrie ont été rompus, à l'initiative de Damas, à la suite de l'entretien d'Ifrane (Maroc) entre le roi Hassan II et le premier ministre israélien de l'époque, M. Shimon Péres en juillet 1986.

La Syrie avait critiqué

durement le Maroc à la suite de cette visite qui, pour elle, constituait un "acte de trahison" et "un défi lancé aux sentiments de la Nation arabe et un mépris de ses droits nationaux". (AFP).



Moshe Arens

prés de 2 milliards de dollars.

Arens dirige le ministère israélien de la défense de 1983 à 1984 et fait figure de champion de l'occupation de la Cisjordanie et de Gaza. Puis en 1986, Shamir lui confie les affaires israélo-arabes. Shlomo Avineri, professeur de sciences politiques à l'université de Jérusalem, prédisait le mois dernier que "le premier souci d'Arens aux Affaires étrangères serait de dissuader les Etats-Unis de dialoguer avec l'OLP." Il voyait juste. (d'après Time)

SORTIR

Eve aux cent visages



Une première en Jordanie: cinq femmes (quatre Jordaniennes, une Américaine) brossent en six tableaux le comportement de leurs concubines dans des situations de la vie moderne. Pas de références culturelles, mais au contraire une volonté de retrouver l'essence de la psychologie féminine, au-delà des frontières. Un trait commun relie ces bourgeois à l'heure du thé, ces femmes de ménage, ces jeunes filles, etc... La mise en scène dépoluée de Susan Darwazeh, des costumes couleur de muraille visent à élimer les scorces pour mieux souligner l'essentiel: l'esprit. Des voix "off" mettent en relief le décalage entre l'expression et la pensée, les contradictions et les difficultés rencontrées par ces femmes "universelles". Deux d'entre elles, qui étaient le même homme sans se l'avouer, essaient ainsi de s'utiliser mutuellement pour atteindre leur but, par des moyens détournés. Consciemment et inconsciemment. Une situation cruelle, qui pimente l'effet tragique provoqué par la voix "off". Changement de décor: dans une société verrouillée, une femme se bat contre son entourage et contre sa propre peur pour sortir de son carcan. L'auteur, Haya Hassouni s'inspire de situations tirées de Virginia Woolf, Peter Schäffer, Jean Genet ("Les bonnes") et de son propre univers.

"Shades of Eve" (en anglais), mis en scène par Sawsan Darwaza, avec Haya Hassouni, Sami Atiyeh, Sims Qubain, Sanchita Wijesooriya. Centre Culturel Royal, mardi 17, mercredi 18 et jeudi 19 à 20h00. Billets (2 JD) en vente au C.R.C.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

Inherit the wind

De Stanley Kramer, avec Gene Kelly et Spencer Tracy: 1925. Dans une petite ville du Tennessee, un professeur de biologie est arrêté pour enseigner illégalement la théorie de l'évolution de Darwin. D'où le fameux procès du singe.

Centre américain, jeudi 12 à 19h00.

Martin Luther King

A l'occasion de l'anniversaire de la mort du pasteur noir, un documentaire sur la vie du prix Nobel assassiné le 13 janvier 1968. Centre américain, dimanche 15 à 19h00.

Ciné-club

Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00, 20h30. Le 12: Mary Poppins. Local hero, Billie blues, They shoot horses, don't they? Giant, Le 13: Lion in winter, M.A.S.H., Don't look now, Wizard of Oz, Collected, Le 14: Pretty baby, Midnight express, Duel in the sun, Evil under the sun, The war lord, Le 15: Patton: lust for glory, Music lovers, Elephant man, J.T.V., vendredi 13 à 17h30.

Butler, Color of money, Le 16: Notorious, North by Northwest, Elmer Gantry, High moon, Citizen Kane. Le 17: Raiders of the lost ark, Private Benjamin, Gold rush, Grand hotel, Best years of our lives, Le 18: Serpent, The producer, Gone with the wind, Around the world in 80 days, An American in Paris.

Film en version originale. Tel: 603981.

Reste de l'université, à droite après le bâtiment "Caterpillar", puis 2ème à gauche, 300 m.

EXPOSITION

La Défense

Vidéos, photos: quartier neuf de Paris tout en gratte-ciels et en parois de verre. La Défense est devenue un symbole de création architecturale. CCF, jusqu'au 22 janvier.

TELEVISION

"Le temps de mourir", avec Anna Karina, Bruno Cremer et Jacek Rostworowski; un milliardaire recueille une jeune femme tombée de cheval. Amnésique, elle ne peut expliquer comment elle détiend un film qui détruit l'assassinat de son hôte. La vie de celui-ci devient un cauchemar. (JTV), vendredi 13 à 17h30.

Ortographe simplifiée contre franglais?

Le "farmacien" ne voit personne dans les bureaux; le "saxofoniste" donne le "ritme." Voici le français tel qu'il pourra être simplifié. Et par la même occasion, mieux apte à se défendre contre l'invasion des anglicismes. A l'origine de cette idée, un syndicat d'enseignants français.

Selon le ministre jordanien des Affaires étrangères, Marwan Al Qasem, qui s'est adressé à la

sant les Etats-Unis d'être "le plus grand producteur et le plus grand réservoir d'armes chimiques." Washington, qui repousse une invitation libyenne à des conversations directes, persiste à se écarter une éventuelle action militaire sur Rabta.

• Sur la destruction des Mig, les explications du Pentagone laissent des zones d'ombre, n'apportant pas vraiment la preuve que les chasseurs Libyens avaient des intentions hostiles: à aucun moment, ils n'ont pu vouloir tirer (les radars sur les avions américains, contrairement à des informations diffusées aussitôt après l'incident).

• Sur le premier point, Tripoli continue à soutenir qu'on ne produit que des médicaments à Rabta. Mais la presse internationale, invitée à visiter le site, n'a pas pu pénétrer à l'intérieur des bâtiments. La Libye a demandé à Paris l'interdiction des armes chimiques en accueillant les chasseurs libyens.

• Selon le ministre jordanien des

affaires étrangères, Marwan Al

Qasem, qui n'en prend qu'un,

le double quand il se mue en rationnel? Or, baigne dans l'irrationnel — avec deux "r"...

L'École cite pèle-mêle les accents saugrenus, les "x" plurIELS et les "ph", fourvoyeurs de la phonétique. Si le "o" de trône et

conférence mardi, cette prolifération "est la conséquence de la possession par Israël de l'arme nucléaire, génératrice d'un sentiment d'in sécurité dans la région. La Jordanie croit au besoin de mettre en œuvre le désarmement d'une façon juste et équilibrée, qui garantisse le droit de tous les Etats à la sécurité et ne donne pas à un Etat ou à un groupe d'Etats l'avantage sur les autres".

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Madame Tussaud's – beyond wax, into the space age

By Maggie Jackson
The Associated Press

LONDON — A big toy leopard in a pink tutu sits near the desk of Madame Tussaud's chief executive, but it isn't made of the stuff that attracts 2.5 million visitors a year.

Michael Herbert's office-mate is a fibreglass leftover from a children's exhibit, and a sign of the company's future. For Tussauds isn't just into wax anymore.

The company, whose waxworks were brought from Paris to London 186 years ago by the enterprising Madame, has bought a medieval castle and a set of caves, owns one theme park and plans to build another for \$91 million. It's also delving into non-wax Disney-style animated figures.

Tussauds hasn't forsaken its roots. Its wax statues pop up at new ventures and the original exhibition has been London's top fee-paying tourist site for two years.

To a celebrity, few accolades are greater than an invitation to pose for a Tussaud effigy, and to the public, it's a true sign of the passage of fame when a wax statue gets taken to the storeroom.

Its chamber of horrors, with its freshly guillotined heads and disembowelled Jack the Ripper victims have given generations of children sleepless nights.

"Madame Tussaud's is something we rather crudely say you would visit three times in your life: as a child, a parent and perhaps a grandparent," says Herbert, a gentle man who clearly delights in the fun side to his

business, like his leopard.

"Wax exhibitions need a turnover of people," he said in an interview, noting that more than half of Madame Tussaud's visitors come from abroad. "Therefore it's no use going to set up a wax exhibition in somewhere like Cleveland, Ohio, or even Chicago."

Marie Tussaud, an accomplished sculptress in Paris, inherited the waxworks from the uncle who trained her. She had made deathmasks of guillotine victims including Marie Antoinette, but finding post-revolutionary France too chaotic for business, she moved to England in 1802.

A marketing whiz in her time, she guaranteed new audiences for the waxworks by touring Britain for 33 years before settling in London at age 74. Here she displayed her last work — a scowling self-portrait in spectacles and black bonnet which is among the 350 figures presently on display in the permanent exhibit on the Marylebone road.

After her death, the exhibit grew somewhat old-fashioned, Herbert said, but tourism boosted revenue in the 1960s and it has flourished in recent years with stepped-up marketing.

Tussauds — the company as opposed to Madame Tussaud's, the waxworks — first expanded in 1970 with an exhibition in Amsterdam that has been so successful the company hopes to move to a bigger site.

It bought the wooley hole caves in western England, a popular tourist spot, in 1973 and was attempting to buy the Chessington zoo, now the Chessington World of Adventures, in 1978

when its owner, the Pearson Plc conglomerate, struck back by buying Tussauds.

Soon after, Tussauds bought 13th-century Warwick castle, for then \$2.7 million, and has installed a startlingly lifelike exhibit recreating with wax figures a typical 19th-century royal weekend.

Tussauds' planned amusement park at Woburn Abbey, the 18th-century stately home of the Duke of Bedford, would be impossible without Pearson's backing, says Herbert, who is a director of a U.S. theme park company and sees great potential in this sector in Britain.

"After all, we're still a very small company, with turnover of \$55 million," he said. "To do this alone would really be sticking your neck out."

Expansions aside, Tussauds' vows never to abandon wax. But the old standbys, which cost an average of \$18,000 apiece, are being improved and paired with new-fangled figures.

Next year, Tussauds will open a London exhibition of both wax and non-wax animated figures representing rock stars.

"Rock circus" continues the Disney-style animation work begun with an exhibition near Windsor Castle, on the outskirts of London, called "Royalty and Empire," which recreates a scene from Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee celebrations in 1897.

Static wax figures are something we've been famous for more than 180 years," says spokeswoman Juliet Simpkins. "What we're doing (with animation) is enhancing the illusion."



The Americanisation of Indonesia's elite

By Bill Tarrant
Reuter

JAKARTA — Indonesia's newly-emerging middle class is tuning in to "L.A. law" and slick advertising with the return of commercial television to the traditionalist country after a seven-year break.

The government in 1981 banned advertising on the country's only television station, state-run TVRI, saying it was creating pernicious consumerism in a country with a per capita income of about \$450 a year.

Now a new subscription television station, RCTI, has been given a 20-year licence that allows it to broadcast commercials along with the American-style diet it serves up to Jakarta's elite.

"Subscription television gets around the problem of poor people watching ads for Mercedes

Benz cars and getting envious about the rich," said one advertising executive.

RCTI, directed and partly owned by President Suharto's son Bambang Trihatmojo, charges \$18 a month for its range of sport, music, cartoons, night movies and top-rated American series such as "L.A. law."

It is allowed to broadcast only in the Jakarta area but the government has said it might grant licences for commercial television in six other cities if the new station is a success.

RCTI's scrambled signal is decoded by a device in the subscriber's home. All programmes are in English but the station will begin dubbing and sub-titling next year when it finishes a \$85-million studio.

"This is the last major non-communist capital without a com-

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(Photo: INP/Dräger)

FEWER RISKS: "Cicero" is the name given to this new anaesthesia system from the Federal Republic of Germany. Anaesthetics tech-

nology in general has been coordinated in accordance with the most modern aspects. Approval has been applied for.

'Cicero' makes operations easier

LÜBECK (INP) — The north German firm — Drägerwerk in Lübeck has developed a future-oriented anaesthetic respiration unit. Anaesthesia in medicine is almost as old as the history of medicine itself. Nonetheless, it is still a "sensitive key area" during an operation — especially on account of human failure and overworked staff.

The Drägerwerk AG has now presented a complete "integrated system working place for the anaesthetist." The latest scientific recognitions and technologies have contributed to this modern project — experience and advice from more than one thousand doctors asked in Europe, Asia and America.

"Cicero" is the name given to the unit from the Federal Republic of Germany, which incorporates all the components usually required for carrying out anaesthesia such as gas dosage and type

of anaesthetic, respiration unit and communication controller. The new unit is suitable for grown-ups, children and babies. A special feature is the alarm and data management system. This enables critical changes to be identified more rapidly so that they can be remedied. Exhausting monitoring duties and routine recordings are dispersed with the doctor and the operating staff.

In a modern clinic, the working place of the anaesthetist still comprises a combination of various units. Up to 50 cables and tubes connect the patient with the units and the various systems with one another. This "confusion" increasingly calls for the attention of the doctor and nurse. As a result, handling errors are frequently unavoidable. Thanks to "Cicero," the Lübeck manufacturers say, attention can be given to what is really essential: with a

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Nibbling at the edges of the harvest of death

By David Storey
Reuter

BANGKOK — The pilot held the helicopter steady a few feet above the ground, the blast of its rotors whipping the fronds of a banana tree and fuzzy-ended stalks of giant pampas grass into a frenzy.

Eight men carrying assault rifles leapt from the cabin, scattering into the undergrowth on the steep hillside, then, as the helicopter drew away, made ready for a small patch of flowers nearby.

They wreaked havoc, slashing at the flowers with sticks and slicing off their bulbous seed pods with hunting knives.

It's open season on opium poppies in Thailand.

The latest poppy-hunting expedition was near this village in Loei province, within 20 kilometres of the border with Laos and on the edge of the golden triangle, the biggest single source for the world's opium and its heroin derivative.

Elsewhere in northern Thailand, particularly in the Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai provinces bordering Burma, the paramilitary border patrol police and other forces are scouring wooded ridges and limestone escarpments during this prime growing season.

Although clashes with growers are rare, the troopers go armed because guns are still part of everyday life in these hilly areas and the big men behind the trade can be ruthless in protecting their investments.

The mission of destruction, coupled with a campaign of providing profitable replacement crops like cabbage or coffee, has been a success in Thailand.

Helped by personal intervention from the Thai royal family and aid from abroad, substitution

projects have mushroomed in the hills and domestic opium production has fallen from 200 tonnes to little more than 20 tonnes in a decade.

But raids like those in Loei province, even coupled with record seizures of heroin crossing Thailand last year, are only nibbling at the fringes of production in the golden triangle — an area including parts of Burma, Laos and Thailand — where weather conditions were excellent in 1988.

In the context of the region Thailand has become, in the words of one narcotics agent, a sideshow. "It is important for what goes on around it and what goes through it," he said.

"The growing conditions are as good as we have seen in many years. We have to assume the army is less involved in eradication work than in previous years, if they're involved at all," said one international agent.

"We assume it's going to be a very handsome crop," said the official, who declined to be identified.

He said there could be an increase of as much as 20 per cent in the flow of heroin from the region because of the lack of controls in Burma. But, as with all figures on the illicit opium trade, this was no more than an educated guess.

Although the United States last year openly accused Laotian officials of involvement in opium production, 1989 began on a more optimistic note. A U.S. team visited Vientiane in the first week of January promising aid to eradicate opium growth as part of a general improvement in relations between Washington and Indochina.

The United Nations fund for drug abuse control is also hoping to establish its first programme in Laos since the late 1970s, aimed at introducing other profitable crops to hill tribes now growing opium.

As well as the halt in the U.S. programme, which provided planes to spray poison on poppies in Burma's north-eastern Shan and Kachin states, narcotics agents say the political upheavals left the indigenous police forces in chaos.

Top officers, including the commander of the narcotics unit,

to global stability.

President-elect George Bush recently acknowledged the political dimension of the Third World's \$1,300 billion debt. In revising the U.S. debt policy, he said, "not just the Treasury (Department), but our national security people" would be involved too. But exactly how far the United States can go in addressing the problem remains moot.

Within the administration, U.S. policy towards the Third World has been mostly identified with James Baker, the former Treasury Secretary, and Bush's choice for Secretary of State. That policy, particularly its free-market theme, is expected to continue.

But debt resolution is not all about U.S. policy. As the World Bank study showed, the United States is only one of several major recipients of Third World outflows in loan payments and other payments. The "whole new look" of the United States policy towards developing countries, promised by Bush, may not be effective unless it is replicated in other rich countries.

Several countries, Japan and West Germany in particular, are known to be sympathetic to the Third World's plight. How their sympathy translates into action remains a different matter.

Total net Third World payments to industrialised countries are estimated at \$43 billion, up from \$38.10 billion in 1987. When the debt crisis erupted in 1982, developing countries were taking in \$18.20 billion more than they paid out. Now, of course, their debt has almost doubled — to \$1.32 trillion.

The massive transfer of resources from poor to rich countries, which are part of the effort to service that debt, is becoming a major political issue in the Third World. This was acknowledged in the World Bank reports, which observes that "the immense uncertainty surrounding the outcome of the debt crisis, and, in some countries, the sheer size of the debt relative to economic capacity are daunting to all investors, internal and external."

About two-thirds of the total Third World debt is held by private lenders, including banks in the United States, Japan and Western Europe. The other one-third is owed to governments and to such government-owned lending institutions as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). So the room for manoeuvre — debt forgiveness, rescheduling or new loans — is there. It now remains up to the powers that be to use that opportunity to address the monumental problem.

Wissa Wassef's lifelong adventure with weaving began in 1941, when he was commissioned to build a school using traditional materials in old Cairo, near the remains of the city's Roman fortresses. He persuaded the authorities to let him teach weaving after hours to children enrolled at the school. This interest in the work of children first appeared when he realised that adult craftsmen all tended to repeat themselves — they no longer had the capacity to be inventive. This, he decided, must be because their

Academic File.

POPULATION AND WORLD RESOURCES:

"One billion people are now being added to the human race every twelve years," says the 1988 State of World Population report. But we are consuming world resources even faster than population is growing.



Azraq oasis



Azraq castle

The slow death of a desert oasis

By Alistair Lyon
Reuter

AZRAQ — Kicking up dust, buffalo canter through low brush at this wetland oasis in Jordan's eastern desert, once a world-famous sanctuary for migrant birds.

The buffalo, descended from domestic animals, and scores of wild horses, roam the shrinking marshes, but few birds now stop at Azraq en route between Europe and Africa.

According to Anis Muasher, president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, the oasis is dying because of over-pumping of water to meet Amman's growing demand.

Unless this is curbed, Azraq, 90 kilometres east of the capital, may become an early casualty of Jordan's looming water crisis, say Muasher and other experts.

Some wintered there and others breed among its giant reeds, prickly sea rush and tamarisk bushes, along with snakes, frogs, fish and lizards. Asiatic jackals, red fox, wolves and striped hyenas are still seen, though wild boar have vanished.

Experts say overpumping has lowered the water table by three metres in the past three years in some of the Jordan Water Authority's 15 wells, and some springs have dried up completely.

The Azraq area discharges 15 to 16 million cubic metres of water a year. The water authority is pumping this amount and local farmers are using another six million for irrigation and fishponds," said Omar Rimawi, a Jordan University hydrologist.

The Azraq oasis is part of a 13,000-square-kilometre basin, fed by water filtering underground from the Jebel Ad-Druze mountains in southern Syria.

Rimawi said the purest water lies in a Basalt aquifer. A few kilometres away are the Sabkha salt flats, used for salt production.

Overpumping risks virtually irreversible seepage of saline water from Sabkha to the Basalt aquifer and the whole water column," Rimawi said.

Salamah said Azraq's safe yield of drinking water was 10 to 12 million cubic metres a year. "If pumping goes on as now, the pools will dry up completely in five years."

Experts say overpumping has



A detail of Garia Mahmoud's "Peasants."

By Michael Gibson
International Herald Tribune

creative faculties were stunted at one stage.

Artistic potential

One of his basic convictions was that every human being has artistic potential, though it may be perverted or destroyed by education. As it happened, the results of this first adventure were so exciting that he decided to take it a step further. Three of the children stayed with him and formed the nucleus of a teaching staff when the school in Harrania was created in 1951. His family fortune was sufficient to allow him to buy land there and build a school of traditional design.

This delightful consensus in choices made by a government commission and by the decorators of a major hotel chain, is but one sign of the prestige enjoyed here by the little group of craftsmen at the Ramses Wissa Wassef school in the village of Harrania on the outskirts of Cairo.

But their prestige is not limited to Egypt. The utopian experiment initiated 45 years ago by the architect Ramses Wissa Wassef has achieved a worldwide reputation, thanks to countless exhibitions and sales to museums in Europe and the United States.

Ramses Wissa Wassef was born in Cairo in 1911, the son of a wealthy Coptic family. His father was a leader in parliament and a celebrated lawyer.

Ramses studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, where he significantly submitted a project on rural architecture in Egypt ("The Potter's House on the Nile").

From the outset he showed a keen interest in the uneasy situation of traditional architecture and crafts in an increasingly industrial society.

As an architect, he devoted his life to building with mud blocks, using traditional Egyptian techniques and forms. For this work, he posthumously received the Aga Khan Award in 1983.

Wissa Wassef's lifelong adventure with weaving began in 1941, when he was commissioned to build a school using traditional materials in old Cairo, near the remains of the city's Roman fortresses.

When they completed a tapestry they were paid for it. This was a new situation for the children and gave them a tremendous sense of pride. The first time the 12 children were paid they paraded through the village singing an improvised song boasting of their achievement. Later they asked Wissa Wassef to keep the money for them, to invest it in gold and, as they grew up, they used it to build their own mud brick houses when they got married.

It was always a happy venture,

Sophie Wissa Wassef is in the process of setting up a museum of

tapestries from the Wissa Wassef School in a former henhouse — another beautiful building designed by her husband. It will not be a public museum with regular hours because she and her daughters do not have the time nor the means for this. But those who drop by to buy tapestries, batik or ceramic ware can always ask to see it.

The Jordan Valley is a major development success, but they don't use water efficiently. There's a social and cultural bias against charging farmers an economic price for water," he said.

Jordan Valley Authority Director Mohammed Beni Hani said farmers paid about 25 per cent of the system's running cost but denied they were excessive consumers.

He said a pressurised closed-pipe system to replace open canals would be complete by 1995 and the authority was trying to operate, maintain and manage existing systems better.

Experts say much water is lost in Amman's leaky distribution network but household water consumption is lower than in neighbouring Arab capitals and far below Western levels.

Autopian adventure

Museum

Sophie Wissa Wassef is in the process of setting up a museum of tapestries from the Wissa Wassef School in a former henhouse — another beautiful building designed by her husband. It will not be a public museum with regular hours because she and her daughters do not have the time nor the means for this. But those who drop by to buy tapestries, batik or ceramic ware can always ask to see it.

It promises to be a beautiful monument to the life-work of a number of people — carried out with extraordinary forbearance and patience.

"It has been a continuous flow," says Sophie Wissa Wassef as she walks among the tapestries beneath the gently sloping domes. "It has taken time." One senses that there are so many lives summed up here. There is Fayed Nicolas, one of their first pupils, who drowned tragically at the age of 22. There are others who have been seared by madness. And others still who have serenely matured.

One big tapestry by Mohammed Moussa shows the whole setting of the school with all its buildings nestled among the palm trees. "Mohammed came to see me one day," says Sophie, "asking me to give him a subject. I pointed out that all the trees in our tapestries were always shown from below. Why not show them from above for once." Mohammed's view of Harrania is one you get from the terrace of Sophie's house. It shows it glowing in the dusty desert air at sunset. Bright birds are flying past against the darkening sky.

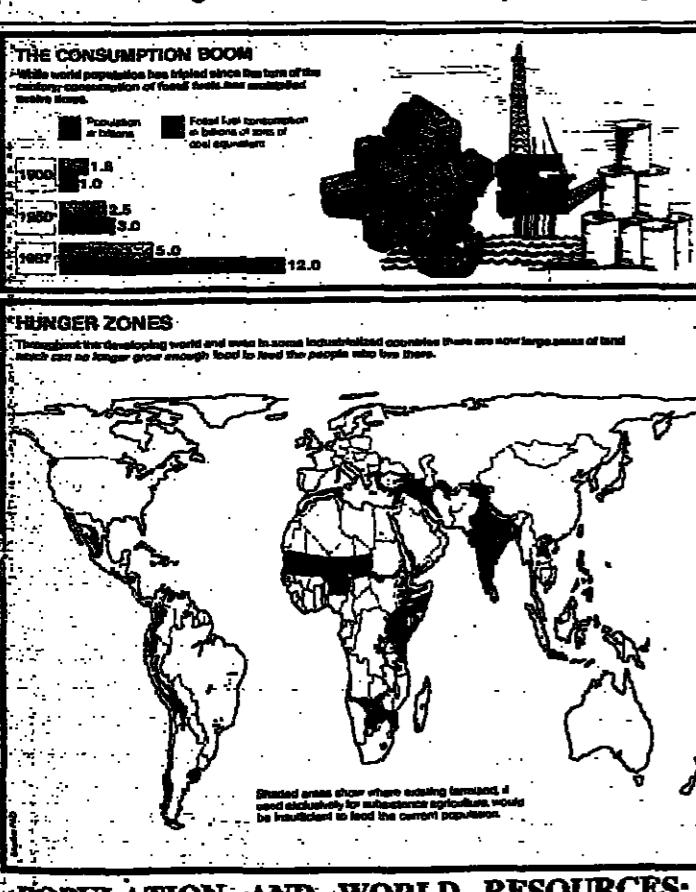
"It has taken time," Sophie Wissa Wassef repeats, and as she speaks she radiates the warmth of someone who has found fulfillment in her life task. "Time has been the most important ingredient of this experiment." And listening to her, one senses that time and patience are the precious commodities that people living in the urgent vortex of the industrial world cannot afford to give.

Children of this "second generation" were encouraged to find an original form of their own and the stylistic difference is perceptible in subtler shadings of colour and a greater mastery of form at an early age. The young generation benefitted from the groundbreaking technical work of their elders and were thus free to devote more energy to the aesthetic aspects.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of the enterprise, after close to 50 years, is the way in which the children have developed into mature craftsmen. The works done during the first years had some of the universal characteristics of children's drawings. In subsequent years they still contained simplifications of forms, as can be found in folk weaving of various periods. But the work done in the '80s by weavers now at the height of their maturity has achieved a style that is the result of a long ripening.

Weavers like Mohammed Moussa, Garia Mahmoud and Ashour Messehli, all of them in their 40s, have begun producing large landscape works which can take them a full year to weave and which have the balance of a mature style.

"Antelopes," by Fawzi Mohammed



"One billion people are now being added to the human race every twelve years," says the 1988 State of World Population report. But we are consuming world resources even faster than population is growing.

Economists predict gradual rise in yen's role

TOKYO (AP) — The U.S. dollar's predominance in global financial dealings is falling as growing economic interdependence within Asia and other regions increases reliance on the Japanese yen and other currencies, economists said Tuesday.

The yen may not replace the dollar as the international official reserve currency, but trends point to greater use of the yen and Deutsche mark and a commensurate decline in the dollar's importance, David Hale, chief economist of Kemper Financial Services Inc., said.

"There are very compelling arguments why the yen should become an important international reserve asset," Hale said. "These are a tremendous mismatch between the yen's importance and the role it plays in the world economy."

Japan's \$3 trillion gross national product in 1988, the \$4 trillion capitalisation of the Tokyo Stock Exchange and international bank

assets estimated by the Bank of International Settlements at \$625.8 billion — compared to U.S. bank assets of \$492 billion — are evidence of the dramatic growth in Japan's relative economic power, Hale said.

The emergence of Asia as a major economic growth region is one reason for the dollar's declining importance as a foreign reserve currency, said economists attending a conference entitled "Task Force on Pacific Rim Strategies."

Trade within the Asian region is growing so quickly that it will soon overtake trans-Pacific trade, said Takashi Hosomi, chairman of NLI Research and former finance ministry adviser.

"Trade volume in East Asia totalled \$84 billion in 1987 and it is growing faster than trans-Pacific trade, which totalled \$104 billion," Hosomi said.

Japanese banks are increasingly using the yen in international lending — their external yen-denominated loans are estimated at 13 trillion yen (\$104 billion), Hale said.

Japan is the largest lender to a number of Asian countries, and yen loans account for 30 per cent of Malaysia's and Indonesia's foreign debt and 40 per cent of Thailand's, he said.

Growing overseas direct investment by Japanese firms in Asia is also expanding the yen's zone of influence.

"It would be logical to expect in the 1990s a regional economic bloc to emerge around Japan," Hale said.

Economists attending the conference predicted that changes in the relative importance of the yen

and the dollar would be gradual. "I don't think the yen will take the position of the dollar, but will function to supplement the dollar," said Yasuo Kanzaki, executive vice president of Nikko Securities Co.

Instead, a number of currencies may be used.

"The staggering growth in the volume of international capital flows makes it much more difficult for a single currency to play such a significant role as in the past," said Lawrence Summers, economics professor at Harvard University.

"I think in the future there will be no reserve currency as we have known it in the past," said Tane Grant, a member of the board of directors of the Futures Industry Association.

At the end of 1987, the dollar accounted for 67 per cent of official worldwide foreign exchange reserves, down from 70 to 80 per cent in the 1970s, the

International Monetary Fund says.

The yen accounted for seven per cent of world official reserves and the Deutsche mark for 14.7 per cent.

The pound sterling, which before World War I accounted for 38 per cent of official reserves, now accounts for 2.6 per cent.

"The yen is likely to reach 14 to 15 per cent (of worldwide official reserves) by the mid-1990s," Hale said.

But a number of factors limit the yen's viability as a reserve currency, including limits on the number of investment opportunities in Japan's financial markets and exchange rate volatility, which discourages the use of yen-denominated contracts in foreign trade, Hale said.

More than 35 per cent of Japan's export contracts are yen-denominated, up from 17.5 per cent in 1975, and nearly 10 per

cent of its import contracts are yen-denominated, up from less than one per cent in 1975, he said.

But in Britain and West Germany, 80 per cent of their exports and 40 per cent of their imports are denominated in their own currencies, Hale said.

The dollar "allows better control of risk," said Makoto Utsumi, director general of the finance ministry's international finance bureau. He noted that there was no particular reason not to use the dollar in transactions.

Utsumi and other Japanese officials were unenthusiastic about the yen's potential as a reserve currency, explaining that the dollar is supported by both military and economic power.

"The yen's vulnerability is that Japan's strength lies only in economic power because it lacks a defence capability and natural resources," Hosomi said.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Kuwaiti cabinet approves airport tax

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's cabinet Wednesday approved a two dinar (\$7) tax on passengers leaving from Kuwait airport, a spokesman said. Acting minister of state for cabinet affairs Nasser Abdulla Al Rodhan told reporters children younger than 12 would be exempted. The measure requires final approval by the Emir Court.

Islamic banks to finance Sudan

ABU DHABI (R) — Islamic banks have agreed to finance projects to help Sudan, the official Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported Wednesday. The International Islamic Banks Union (IIBU) board decided in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, this week to set up a committee to study the projects, WAM quoted IIBU Deputy Chairman Said Lootah as saying. "We will concentrate on farming, manufacturing and communication projects that will yield the highest possible return for Sudan's economy," Lootah, chairman of the Dubai Islamic Bank, said. The IIBU groups more than 50 Islamic banks, which charge no interest but allow the lender to take a percentage of profits.

Iraq opens \$416 million highway

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has opened a 130 million dinar (\$416 million) road which forms part of a planned highway linking it with Kuwait in the south and Syria and Jordan in the west. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Wednesday the 106-kilometre road from Baghdad to the western town of Hillah was built by a Yugoslav company, Union Engineering, and opened Tuesday. It is the fourth phase of the 1,200-kilometre project.

Tunisia plans to amend banking laws

TUNIS (R) — The Tunisian government plans to amend its banking laws to break down the barriers between different types of banks, central bank governor Ismail Kheili said in an interview published Wednesday. In a banking supplement to the government newspaper La Presse, he said: "The aim is to arrive by stages at a more integrated banking system which would allow each institution to choose its own place in the market. Each financial institution will have three windows, one for commercial activity, one for long-term investment and one for offshore activities. They will be able to choose which activity to specialise in." Tunisia now imposes different rules for local banks, development banks and offshore banks. Kheili, a reformer close to President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, gave no indication of when the amended legislation would go to parliament.

'Cost of food aid soars'

ROME (R) — The cost of food aid for the world's poorer nations soared to a record \$136 million in 1988, the World Food Programme (WFP) has revealed. The WFP, a branch of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation, blamed higher world market prices, largely due to unfavourable weather conditions in Asia and North America. The cost of the 608,500 tonnes of food for distribution was up 42 per cent on 1987. Some \$108 million worth of the food came from the developing world, under a WFP policy of buying where possible surplus stocks from Third World countries. Zimbabwe was the main African supplier and Thailand the main Asian supplier, the WFP said. Nearly half the amount spent buying food was on behalf of donor countries who channelled bilateral contributions through the programme. The WFP said a favourable harvest and harvest outlook in several African countries, particularly in West Africa, should enable its present food-buying policy to continue this year.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, Jan. 11, 1989 Central Bank official rates		
Buy	Sell	French franc 77.4 77.8
U.S. dollar 484.0	486.0	Swiss franc (for 100) 381.2 382.2
Pound Sterling 854.5	858.8	Dutch guilder 226.0 224.9
Deutsche mark 263.7	265.0	Swedish crown 77.7 77.6
Swiss franc 309.4	310.9	Italian lire (for 100) 36.0 36.2
		Belgian franc (for 10) 126.1 126.7

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7740/50	U.S. dollar	1.2000/10
One U.S. dollar	1.8280/90	Canadian dollar	1.8280/90
Pound Sterling	2.0645/65	Deutsche marks	2.0645/65
Deutsche mark	1.5575/85	Dutch guilder	1.5575/85
Swiss franc	38.28/31	Swiss francs	38.28/31
Italian lire	6.2325/75	Belgian francs	6.2325/75
Belgian franc	1339/1340	French francs	1339/1340
Japanese yen	126.25/35	Italian lire	126.25/35
Swedish crown	6.2575/2625	Japanese yen	6.2575/2625
Norwegian crowns	6.6675/6725	Swedish crowns	6.6675/6725
Danish crowns	7.0700/50	Norwegian crowns	7.0700/50
U.S. dollars	402.90/403.40	Danish crowns	402.90/403.40

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Shares closed lower as overseas interest waned and metals weakened after four consecutive days of gains. The All Ordinaries fell 3.2 to 1,498.7.

TOKYO — Share prices rose to a record close for the third consecutive day on continued optimism at the start of a new imperial era, brokers said. The Nikkei index rose 136.94 points to 31,143.45.

HONG KONG — Prices rose sharply on the U.S. dollar's gain pushing Hong Kong stocks to their third successive post-crash high. The Hang Seng index rose 40.14 points to 2,372.52.

SINGAPORE — Share prices recovered from early losses to end generally higher after active trading. The Straits Times industrial index, which lost 1.45 points at midday, ended 2.09 points higher at 1,085.59.

BOMBAY — Share prices drifted lower on scattered profit-taking after the market opened steady. Associated Cement fell 10 rupees to 329.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended mostly firmer in moderate dealing that saw the spotlight shift to second-tier shares. The 30-share DAX index closed at 1,353.42, 7.51 points above the previous close.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed little changed despite a lower opening after major Swiss banks raised their time deposit rates for all maturities by 1/4 per cent. The All Share Swiss index rose 0.9 point to 964.6.

PARIS — French share prices reversed the former trend, opening early trade and were lower at midmorning on a mixture of profit-taking and concern over planned labour unrest by bourse employees. The 30-share bourse indicator was down 0.65 per cent.

LONDON — Shares were rallying from their lows to stand mixed but steady as Wall Street struggled to rise over the last Dow Jones 2,200 level once again. By 1600 GMT the FTSE 100 was 0.9 point off at 1,835.

NEW YORK — Wall Street bime weekly index closed 2.09 points higher but retreated under heavy selling pressure in afternoon trading. The Dow was up four at 2,197.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Cash beats McEnroe in exhibition

ADELAIDE (AP) — Australian Pat Cash, unleashing a mixture of brilliance and blunder, beat long-time idol John McEnroe in straight sets in the opening match of the Rio international tennis challenge at Adelaide's memorial drive courts Wednesday. Cash accounted for the 23-year-old American 7-6, 6-4 in the exhibition event, which several big name players are using as a warm-up for the Australian Open in Melbourne next week.

Drugs committee tackles broad issues

TORONTO (AP) — Months of hearings into the use of drugs by amateur athletes prompted by the Olympic scandal involving Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson start Wednesday. The federal government appointed a commission with sweeping powers to investigate Canadian athletes after Johnson was stripped of his gold medal for testing positive for anabolic steroids at the summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea. Ontario associate chief justice Charles Dubin, the commission's head, said in November that the investigation would be much more than a review of what was involved in Johnson's world record, 9.79 second, 100-metre race on Sept. 24. "I think it also important to consider whether there are pressures being placed on our young men and women athletes to tempt them to cheat," Dubin said. "Have we, as Canadians, lost track of what athletic competition is all about?"

Saudi soccer players start anti-drugs campaign

RIYADH (AP) — The Saudi Arabian Soccer Federation announced Tuesday that its players henceforth would sport T-shirts emblazoned with the words "no to drugs." Saudi Arabia, at the instructions of King Fahd, has instituted a firm anti-drug campaign that includes the death penalty for drug smugglers and traffickers. The federation's announcement said that the shirts will first appear at the finals in the upcoming games of the "cup of the custodian of the two holy shrines," King Fahd's official title. The decision was made at a meeting of the federation board, chaired by Prince Faisal Bin Fahd, Secretary-General for Youth Welfare and the son of the Saudi monarch. It was adopted "out of conviction of the menace of this plague and as a contribution to the anti-drug campaign," the announcement said.

African player of the year disappears

BRUSSELS (R) — Zambian Kahusha Bwalya, African footballer of the year for 1988, failed to report back to his Belgian first division soccer club Cercle Bruges after playing in a World Cup qualifier in Morocco. A club official, who declined to be named, said Wednesday that left-winger Kahusha was expected to report back on Monday, one day after the match which Zambia lost 1-0. "We don't know where he is," the official said. "We just cannot tolerate it." He said it was too soon to say if Kahusha would be disciplined. Kahusha, 25, who shot to fame when he scored three goals for Zambia against Italy in the Seoul Olympics, was due to play for Cercle Bruges in an indoor tournament in Ghent, Belgium, starting Wednesday.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦Q63 ♦103 ♦Q2 ♦Q103 ♦A2
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 NT Pass 1 NT Pass
Pass 2 ♦ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦J982 ♦102 ♦Q103 ♦A2
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♦ Pass
What action do you take?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦J982 ♦102 ♦Q103 ♦A2
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♦ Pass
2 ♦ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦J982 ♦102 ♦Q103 ♦A2
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♦ Pass
2 ♦ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Look for answers on Monday.

'Wonderskates' are tested

OSLO (AP) — Norwegian speedskating coach and an engineer have invented new skates which they claim will revolutionise sports on ice.

Finn Halvorsen, Norway's former national speedskating coach, and Jan Bratland, an engineer, have tested and patented strong, aerodynamic but extra-light skates for ice hockey and speedskating. Aftenposten, Oslo's afternoon newspaper, reported Tuesday.

The newspaper said that the new skates — the result of some 8,000 hours of work over four years — could cut a half-second from a speedskater's time in the 500 metres and up to 10 seconds in a 10,000-metre event.

The paper gave no evidence to support the claims. Halvorsen and Bratland were unavailable for comment.

The inventors told the newspaper that the new skates — one

type for ice hockey, another for speedskating — are 30 to 50 per cent lighter than current models. The skates are made of a composite material and cast virtually in a single piece, according to the report.

Halvorsen has tested the skates in secret sessions in the middle of the night at Oslo's Valle Hovin artificial ice rink. They have also been tested at a technological institute in Trondheim, the report said.

Jan Wanggaard, a former national sailboard champion who is now an industrial designer, helped the inventors with the design of the new skates. Orthopedist Dag Joerstad helped in developing the skates' special sole and ankle support, the report said.

Two state institutions supporting technical research and inventors helped pay for the project with nearly \$20,000.

U.K. debates steroids law

LONDON (AP) — A bill that would impose a criminal penalty on anyone caught taking or supplying anabolic steroids without a prescription was introduced in Britain's House of Commons Tuesday.

The bill would add steroids to a list of controlled substances covered by the 1971 misuse of drugs act, making them illegal for the first time in Britain. Though they are not allowed by most sports organisations, steroids are legal in Britain and most other coun-

tries. "The events of last summer only serve to underline the necessity for government action to tackle drug abuse in sport," said Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Party's expert on sports and the sponsor of the bill, referring to drug scandals at the Seoul Olympics.

"I hope ministers understand that the physical health of athletes will be at risk so long as anabolic steroids remain available," Campbell said.

Paraguay, which had provided the most attractive soccer during the first round of the 16-team event, scored its only goal through Adolfo Jara Heyn.

But Brazil further improved on its goal aggregate with goals by Neimar and Adilio.

The winner of each group plays the runner-up of the other group Saturday. The semifinals and Sunday's final will both be at the 7,000-capacity Aboy Hall here.

Hungary trailed 2-0 after less than a minute but kept their cool afterwards and with classy combination play came back to draw 3-3.

Hungary was caught cold by the Dutch, who scored on their opening move through Andre Bakker and half a minute later Captain Vic Hermans punished a blunder by the goalie with a second goal. "Victory was there for the taking," said Dutch coach Ron Groenewoud. But they didn't.

Hungary held on. Trailing 3-1 till midway in the second half, they produced their best combination moves to dislodge a panicky Dutch defence and earn a late draw.

Belgium, meanwhile, scored big against Italy to take the lead in the European group.

The tournament began with 16 nations from across the world on Jan. 5, but the traditional soccer powers from Europe and South America have dominated play, allowing only the United States

great intensity and in others the games were treated as exhibitions," he said.

Navratilova hits top form

SYDNEY (AP) — World No. 2 Martina Navratilova beat Hungarian Andrea Temesvari 6-2, 6-4 Wednesday in a second-round match at the \$350,000 New South Wales Open tennis championships.

Navratilova, the top seed, said she was pleased to win her first tournament match since the Virginia Slims championships in New York last November. Each of the top eight women's seeds received byes through the first round.

"I'm a little behind in my preparation... because I sprained my ankle playing tennis last week. That put me back four days and I have also had a cold since I arrived here," Navratilova said.

A three-time winner of the New South Wales tournament, Navratilova will face South African Dinky Van Rensburg on Wednesday.

Defending champion and second seed, Pam Shriver was the first player into the quarterfinals

over Japan's Etsuko Inoue.

Ninth-seeded Hana Mandlikova scored the second victory of her comeback to move into the third round by beating France's Nathalie Herremans 6-3, 6-3 and 16th-seeded Terry Phelps of the United States beat sixth-seeded

Italian Rafaela Reggi, 6-3, 7-5. American Mary Joe Fernandez, 17, lived up to her fourth seeding by downing tough New Zealander Belinda Cordwell 6-3, 6-0.

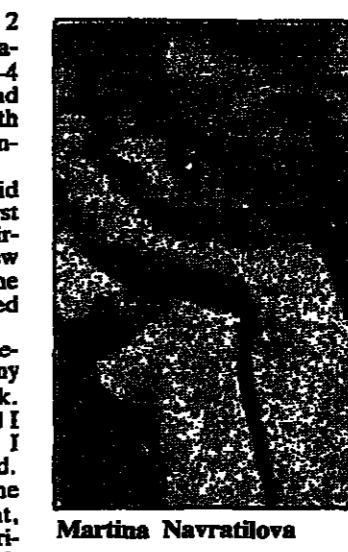
In other second-round matches, No. 5 seed Party Fenwick of the United States; beat Czechoslovakia's Petra Langrova 6-2, 6-3 and South Africa's Dinky Van Rensburg beat American Ann Henrickson, a past finalist, 7-5, 6-3.

Eleventh-seeded Austrian Judith Wiesner beat Australian Anne Minter, the seventh seed, 7-5, 6-3.

In men's second-round matches, sixth-seed Christo Van Rensburg of South Africa beat Soviet player Alexander Volkov 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-3) Wednesday.

Two qualifiers upset higher ranked opponents in second round matches. Czechoslovak Libor Nemecek, ranked 333 in the world, downed eighth-seeded Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden 3-6, 6-1, 6-1, Olivier Delaire of France, playing his sixth Grand Prix event, beat Australian Jason Stoltenberg, 18, 7-6 (10-8), 6-2.

The tournament continues through Sunday.



Martina Navratilova

Wednesday.

Soviets equal NHL teams

BUFFALO (R) — When Ken Priestley of the Sabres scored a sudden death overtime goal Monday to give Buffalo a 6-5 win over the Soviet Union's central Red Army, the super series of ice hockey ended in a dead heat.

The Red Army, perennial Soviet national league champions, were 4-2-1 and Soviet league runners-up Dynamo Riga were 2-4-1 in their tour against National Hockey League (NHL) teams for a total of six wins for hosts and visitors alike and two draws.

R Alan Eagleson, executive director of the NHL Players Association, said: "I stood next to the Buffalo Sabres' bench and coach Ted Sator Monday night and they were playing it seriously, like a Stanley Cup playoff game."

Eagleson said the level of play in the series was uneven. "Some other teams treated it as an exhibition. The Los Angeles Kings brought up an entire line from the minor leagues for the game, so that in some games there was

3-3.

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the Dutch, who scored on their

opening move through Andre Bakker and half a minute later

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Jan. 5, but the traditional soccer

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America have dominated play,

allowing only the United States

great intensity and in others the

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tions," he said.

Eagleson, who also negotiates

all international hockey agree-

ments for the NHL, said plans

were set for a 21-game tour by

our Soviet club teams next season

that would involve all 21 NHL

teams but would not count in

league standings.

Toronto Maple Leafs owner

Harold Ballard and the Phi-

adelphia Flyers boss Jay Snider

have insisted they would not

allow the Soviets to play in their

buildings, but Eagleson had an

answer for that.

"We will allow them to play in

any other arena (they (Ballard and Snider) choose)," said Eagleson.

"For example, Toronto could

rent the Hamilton arena in

Hamilton, Ontario, but they must

guarantee an average attendance

equal to what the normal average

attendance is for the particular

team."

This year's super series drew an

average of 13,215.

Paris-Dakar Standings

PARIS (R) — Japanese driver Kei Shinozuka won the 12th timed section of the Paris-Dakar motor rally Tuesday on one of the course's toughest sections, 501 km in Guinea from Sigiri to Mamou. Britain's Gary Tolman and Jan Van Tuyl were forced out of the rally when their Range Rover caught fire 65 km from the Malian capital of Bamako where the rally field had spent the night.

1. Vatanen/Berglund twenty one hours 45 minutes one second

2. Ickx/Tarin seven minutes 14 seconds behind

3. Tambay/Lemoyne 3:54:01 behind

4. Frequelin/Fenouil 5:50:08 behind

5. K. Tijsterman/M. Tijsterman 6:00:18 behind

6. J. Fontenay/B. Musmarra (France) Mitsubishi 6:54:55 behind

7. K. Shinozuka/H. Magne (Japan/France) Mitsubishi 7:04:50 behind

8. Wamberger/Gueheanec 9:10:55 behind

9. Gabreau/Cabrey 14:08:47 behind

10. Pescarolo/Fourniquet 22:11:17 behind

"It always seems we have to prove ourselves, especially me," Eagleson said. "I'm looking forward to a great challenge. And maybe it will be the incentive and motivation we need to really get up for this game and win."

Eagleson said betting with the Bengals had proven profitable for their backers.

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THE Daily Crossword

by Victor Jambor, Jr.
ACROSS

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Gorbachev takes new step towards electoral process

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has embarked on the latest step in transforming the country's parliamentary system amid public doubts over whether the overhaul will amount to fundamental change.

Gorbachev told the Communist Party's central committee Tuesday the elections faced difficulties, including "group egoism, ambition and political careerism."

He proposed a list of 100 party candidates to be elected to the revamped national parliament in March.

They will be formally elected at an expanded central commission meeting to the 100 seats set aside for the party in the new 2,250-member parliament, which Gorbachev hopes will boost popular involvement in politics.

Two-thirds of the new parliament — the congress of people's deputies — will be elected March 26 in national elections contested by more than one candidate a seat.

The remainder of the seats are set aside for the Communist Party and organisations ranging from the academy of sciences, journalists' composers' and artists' unions to sports and stamp collecting clubs.